

# **Birds of Bath and Highland Counties in Virginia**



Photo by Roger Mayhorn

**An Annotated Listing of Species  
Bath-Highland Bird Club  
2004**

*Cover photo: Rose-Breasted Grosbeak by Roger Mayhorn of Grundy, Va.*

**February 15, 2005**

This is the second edition of the *Birds of Bath and Highland Counties*. It provides an annotated listing of 252 species of birds based on published and contributed records through June 2004. Of these, 196 species are considered “regular,” 55 species are considered “accidental,” and one is a probable domestic escapee. The information was obtained from multiple sources, including countywide forays conducted by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Christmas Bird Counts, bird clubs, and individuals.

The information provided for the 252 documented species includes status of temporal and spatial distribution, habitat associations, extreme dates for migratory species, confirmation or evidence of breeding, and peak counts.

Birders are requested to submit new records and corrections. New records of primary interest will be those that document the presence of species that are identified as uncommon, rare, or accidental, as well as records that extend the range of extreme dates, provide evidence of breeding, or increase peak count numbers. A record form for copying and submission of records is provided at the end of this document.

On behalf of the Bath-Highland Club I thank the many individuals and bird clubs from around the Commonwealth who have contributed records.

In particular, I thank Yulee Lerner, Leonard Teuber, and John Spahr for their efforts to develop and preserve a knowledge base about the wonderful bird life of our two mountain counties. This document and the preliminary edition that preceded it would not have been completed without YuLee Lerner’s guidance, expertise, and persistence. YuLee did most of the work. The largest part of the information presented in this document was provided by Leonard Teuber, who spent many years carefully observing and recording bird life in Highland County. We would know substantially less without his contribution. Much of the new information in this document was obtained through the 2003 VSO Foray, which was coordinated by John Spahr. This document would be much less comprehensive and current without inclusion of the foray information.

Thanks also to Susan Webb, who contributed many hours organizing records and editing the document.

Finally, to state the obvious, the wonderful bird life of Bath and Highland Counties is a clear reflection of this area’s remarkably undiminished natural environment. We have something very special here. Sincere thanks to all who work to keep it that way.

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## **DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

The sequence, taxonomy, and English names in the species listing conform to the *Checklist of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union, 1998) and its supplements. Both the format and organization of the records are generally adopted from the *Birds of Augusta County* (Augusta Bird Club, 1998).

**STATUS** describes the temporal and spatial distributions, relative abundance, and habitat associations of the listed species as they occur in Bath and Highland Counties. Where appropriate, population trends are also discussed in this section. For species that are considered accidental, individual records are listed and status is not given.

Terms used to describe relative abundance are as follows:

- Abundant – likely in large numbers in proper habitat at the proper season.
- Common – seen most of the time or in small numbers in proper habitat and season.
- Uncommon – occurs in small numbers or in limited habitat.
- Rare – occurs irregularly in small numbers.
- Accidental – no more than five records in any given season.

**EXTREME DATES** for regular species, and all dates for rare and accidental species, are based on individual Bath and Highland County records in files maintained by the Bath-Highland Bird Club Records Committee. Extreme dates are noted only for those seasons for which there are more than five records of the species.

**BREEDING** indicates evidence of possible or confirmed breeding in Bath or Highland Counties. For a number of species, nesting is suggested by the presence of birds in potentially suitable habitat during the breeding season, but breeding has not been confirmed. Breeding records obtained through the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1985-1989) are indicated by the Topographic Quadrangle name followed by the Atlas Block (AB).

**PEAK COUNTS** generally represent the number of birds of any species seen by “one party in one day.” However, many peak counts are included from forays and surveys; these represent the total sightings of a number of observers. The forays and surveys include:

- Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) Forays: 1975, Highland; 1982, Bath; 1985, Highland; 2003, Bath and Highland
- Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)
- The Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1985-1989)

For many species, the peak counts information also includes an overall summary statement for observations during the 2003 VSO Foray, e.g., total number of reports and total

individual birds from each county (where available) and any apparent increase or decrease in population from previous VSO forays.

SEASONS are designated to best represent the biology, or breeding and migratory patterns of the majority of species.

- Spring: March – May
- Summer: June – July
- Fall: August – November
- Winter: December – February

Note that some species or individual birds may be late or early with respect to these designated seasons.

**VARCOM** is the Virginia Avian Records Committee, a committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

## CONTENTS OF SPECIES LISTS

SNOW GOOSE <i>Chen caerulescens</i> .....	7	AMERICAN BITTERN <i>Botaurus</i>	
CANADA GOOSE <i>Branta canadensis</i> .....	7	<i>lentiginosus</i> .....	14
MUTE SWAN <i>Cygnus olor</i> .....	7	LEAST BITTERN <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> .....	14
TUNDRA SWAN <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> .....	7	GREAT BLUE HERON <i>Ardea</i>	
WOOD DUCK <i>Aix sponsa</i> .....	8	<i>herodias</i> .....	14
GADWALL <i>Anas strepera</i> .....	8	GREAT EGRET <i>Ardea alba</i> .....	15
AMERICAN WIGEON <i>Anas</i>		SNOWY EGRET <i>Egretta thula</i> .....	15
<i>americana</i> .....	8	CATTLE EGRET <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> .....	15
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK <i>Anas</i>		GREEN HERON <i>Butorides striata</i> .....	15
<i>rubripes</i> .....	8	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	
MALLARD <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> .....	9	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> .....	15
BLUE-WINGED TEAL <i>Anas discors</i> .....	9	YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	
NORTHERN SHOVELER <i>Anas</i>		<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i> .....	15
<i>clypeata</i> .....	9	BLACK VULTURE <i>Coragyps atratus</i> .....	15
NORTHERN PINTAIL <i>Anas acuta</i> .....	9	TURKEY VULTURE <i>Cathartes aura</i> .....	16
GREEN-WINGED TEAL <i>Anas crecca</i> .....	9	OSPREY <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> .....	16
CANVASBACK <i>Aythya valisineria</i> .....	10	MISSISSIPPI KITE <i>Ictinia</i>	
REDHEAD <i>Aythya americana</i> .....	10	<i>mississippiensis</i> .....	16
RING-NECKED DUCK <i>Aythya</i>		BALD EAGLE <i>Haliaeetus</i>	
<i>collaris</i> .....	10	<i>leucocephalus</i> .....	16
GREATER SCAUP <i>Aythya marila</i> .....	10	NORTHERN HARRIER <i>Circus</i>	
LESSER SCAUP <i>Aythya collaris</i> .....	10	<i>cyaneus</i> .....	16
SURF SCOTER <i>Melanitta</i>		SHARP-SHINNED HAWK <i>Accipiter</i>	
<i>perspicillata</i> .....	10	<i>striatus</i> .....	17
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER <i>Melanitta</i>		COOPER'S HAWK <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> .....	17
<i>fusca</i> .....	10	NORTHERN GOSHAWK <i>Accipiter</i>	
LONG-TAILED DUCK <i>Clangula</i>		<i>gentilis</i> .....	17
<i>hyemalis</i> .....	11	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK <i>Buteo</i>	
COMMON GOLDENEYE <i>Bucephala</i>		<i>lineatus</i> .....	17
<i>clangula</i> .....	11	BROAD-WINGED HAWK <i>Buteo</i>	
BUFFLEHEAD <i>Bucephala albeola</i> .....	11	<i>platypterus</i> .....	18
HOODED MERGANSER <i>Lophodytes</i>		RED-TAILED HAWK <i>Buteo</i>	
<i>cucullatus</i> .....	11	<i>jamaicensis</i> .....	18
COMMON MERGANSER <i>Mergus</i>		ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK <i>Buteo</i>	
<i>merganser</i> .....	11	<i>lagopus</i> .....	18
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER		GOLDEN EAGLE <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> .....	18
<i>Mergus serrator</i> .....	12	AMERICAN KESTREL <i>Falco</i>	
RUDDY DUCK <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> .....	12	<i>sparverius</i> .....	18
RUFFED GROUSE <i>Bonasa umbellus</i> .....	12	MERLIN <i>Falco columbarius</i> .....	19
WILD TURKEY <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> .....	12	PEREGRINE FALCON <i>Falco</i>	
NORTHERN BOBWHITE <i>Colinus</i>		<i>peregrinus</i> .....	19
<i>virginianus</i> .....	13	KING RAIL <i>Rallus elegans</i> .....	19
RED-THROATED LOON <i>Gavia</i>		SORA <i>Porzana carolina</i> .....	19
<i>stellata</i> .....	13	COMMON MOORHEN <i>Gallinula</i>	
COMMON LOON <i>Gavia immer</i> .....	13	<i>chloropus</i> .....	19
PIED-BILLED GREBE <i>Podilymbus</i>		AMERICAN COOT <i>Fulica americana</i> .....	19
<i>podiceps</i> .....	13	SEMPALMATED PLOVER <i>Charadrius</i>	
HORNED GREBE <i>Podiceps auritus</i> .....	14	<i>semipalmatus</i> .....	19
RED-NECKED GREBE <i>Podiceps</i>		KILLDEER <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> .....	19
<i>grisegena</i> .....	14	GREATER YELLOWLEGS <i>Tringa</i>	
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT		<i>melanoleuca</i> .....	20
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> .....	14		

LESSER YELLOWLEGS <i>Tringa</i>		RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	
<i>flavipes</i> .....	20	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> .....	26
SOLITARY SANDPIPER <i>Tringa</i>		RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	
<i>solitaria</i> .....	20	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> .....	27
SPOTTED SANDPIPER <i>Actitis</i>		YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	
<i>macularius</i> .....	20	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> .....	27
RUDDY TURNSTONE <i>Arenaria</i>		DOWNY WOODPECKER <i>Picoides</i>	
<i>interpres</i> .....	20	<i>pubescens</i> .....	27
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER		HAIRY WOODPECKER <i>Picoides</i>	
<i>Calidris pusilla</i> .....	20	<i>villosus</i> .....	28
LEAST SANDPIPER <i>Calidris</i>		NORTHERN FLICKER <i>Colaptes</i>	
<i>minutilla</i> .....	21	<i>auratus</i> .....	28
PECTORAL SANDPIPER <i>Calidris</i>		PILEATED WOODPECKER	
<i>melanotos</i> .....	21	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> .....	28
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER		OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i> .....	21	<i>Contopus cooperi</i> .....	29
WILSON'S SNIPES <i>Gallinago delicata</i> .....	21	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE <i>Contopus</i>	
AMERICAN WOODCOCK <i>Scolopax</i>		<i>virens</i> .....	29
<i>minor</i> .....	21	YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	
BONAPARTE'S GULL <i>Larus</i>		<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> .....	29
<i>philadelphia</i> .....	21	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER <i>Empidonax</i>	
RING-BILLED GULL <i>Larus</i>		<i>virescens</i> .....	29
<i>delawarensis</i> .....	22	ALDER FLYCATCHER <i>Empidonax</i>	
HERRING GULL <i>Larus argentatus</i> .....	22	<i>alnorum</i> .....	29
CASPIAN TERN <i>Sterna caspia</i> .....	22	WILLOW FLYCATCHER <i>Empidonax</i>	
COMMON TERN <i>Sterna hirundo</i> .....	22	<i>traillii</i> .....	30
FORSTER'S TERN <i>Sterna forsteri</i> .....	22	LEAST FLYCATCHER <i>Empidonax</i>	
BLACK TERN <i>Chidonias niger</i> .....	22	<i>minimus</i> .....	30
ROCK PIGEON <i>Columba livia</i> .....	22	EASTERN PHOEBE <i>Sayornis phoebe</i> .....	30
MOURNING DOVE <i>Zenaida</i>		SAY'S PHOEBE <i>Sayornis saya</i> .....	31
<i>macroura</i> .....	23	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO <i>Coccyzus</i>		<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i> .....	31
<i>erythrophthalmus</i> .....	23	EASTERN KINGBIRD <i>Tyrannus</i>	
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO		<i>tyrannus</i> .....	31
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> .....	23	FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER	
BARN OWL <i>Tyto alba</i> .....	23	<i>Tyrannus savana</i> .....	31
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL		LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE <i>Lanius</i>	
<i>Megascops asio</i> .....	24	<i>ludovicianus</i> .....	31
GREAT HORNED OWL <i>Bubo</i>		WHITE-EYED VIREO <i>Vireo griesus</i> .....	32
<i>virginianus</i> .....	24	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO <i>Vireo</i>	
BARRED OWL <i>Strix varia</i> .....	24	<i>flavifrons</i> .....	32
LONG-EARED OWL <i>Asio otus</i> .....	24	BLUE-HEADED VIREO <i>Vireo</i>	
SHORT-EARED OWL <i>Asio flammeus</i> .....	24	<i>solitarius</i> .....	32
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL		WARBLING VIREO <i>Vireo gilvus</i> .....	33
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i> .....	24	PHILADELPHIA VIREO <i>Vireo</i>	
COMMON NIGHTHAWK <i>Chordeiles</i>		<i>philadelphicus</i> .....	33
<i>minor</i> .....	25	RED-EYED VIREO <i>Vireo</i>	
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW		<i>olivaceus</i> .....	33
<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i> .....	25	BLUE JAY <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> .....	33
WHIP-POOR-WILL <i>Caprimulgus</i>		AMERICAN CROW <i>Corvus</i>	
<i>vociferus</i> .....	25	<i>brachyrhynchos</i> .....	34
CHIMNEY SWIFT <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> .....	25	FISH CROW <i>Corvus ossifragus</i> .....	34
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD		COMMON RAVEN <i>Corvus corax</i> .....	34
<i>Archilochus colubris</i> .....	26	HORNED LARK <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> .....	34
BELTED KINGFISHER <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> .....	26	PURPLE MARTIN <i>Progne subis</i> .....	35
		TREE SWALLOW <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> .....	35



NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> .....	35
BANK SWALLOW <i>Riparia riparia</i> .....	35
CLIFF SWALLOW <i>Petrochelidon</i>	
<i>pyrrhonota</i> .....	36
BARN SWALLOW <i>Hirundo rustica</i> .....	36
CAROLINA CHICKADEE <i>Poecile</i>	
<i>carolinensis</i> .....	36
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i> .....	37
TUFTED TITMOUSE <i>Baeolophus</i>	
<i>bicolor</i> .....	37
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH <i>Sitta</i>	
<i>canadensis</i> .....	37
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i> .....	38
BROWN CREEPER <i>Certhia</i>	
<i>americana</i> .....	38
CAROLINA WREN <i>Thryothorus</i>	
<i>ludovicianus</i> .....	38
BEWICK'S WREN <i>Thryomanes</i>	
<i>bewickii</i> .....	39
HOUSE WREN <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> .....	39
WINTER WREN <i>Troglodytes</i>	
<i>troglodytes</i> .....	39
SEDGE WREN <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> .....	39
MARSH WREN <i>Cistothorus palustris</i> .....	39
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	
<i>Regulus satrapa</i> .....	40
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	
<i>Regulus calendula</i> .....	40
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	
<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i> .....	40
EASTERN BLUEBIRD <i>Sialia</i>	
<i>sialis</i> .....	40
VEERY <i>Catharus fuscescens</i> .....	41
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	
<i>Catharus minimus</i> .....	41
SWAINSON'S THRUSH <i>Catharus</i>	
<i>ustulatus</i> .....	41
HERMIT THRUSH <i>Catharus</i>	
<i>guttatus</i> .....	41
WOOD THRUSH <i>Hylocichla</i>	
<i>mustelina</i> .....	42
AMERICAN ROBIN <i>Turdus</i>	
<i>migratorius</i> .....	42
VARIED THRUSH <i>Ixoreus naevius</i> .....	42
GRAY CATBIRD <i>Dumetella</i>	
<i>carolinensis</i> .....	43
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD <i>Mimus</i>	
<i>polyglottos</i> .....	43
BROWN THRASHER <i>Toxostoma</i>	
<i>rufum</i> .....	44
EUROPEAN STARLING <i>Sturnus</i>	
<i>vulgarus</i> .....	44
AMERICAN PIPIT <i>Anthus</i>	
<i>rubescens</i> .....	44
CEDAR WAXWING <i>Bombycilla</i>	
<i>cedrorum</i> .....	45
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	
<i>Vermivora pinus</i> .....	45
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> .....	46
TENNESSEE WARBLER <i>Vermivora</i>	
<i>peregrina</i> .....	46
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	
<i>Vermivora celata</i> .....	46
NASHVILLE WARBLER <i>Vermivora</i>	
<i>ruficapilla</i> .....	46
NORTHERN PARULA <i>Parula</i>	
<i>americana</i> .....	47
YELLOW WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>petechia</i> .....	47
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> .....	48
MAGNOLIA WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>magnolia</i> .....	48
CAPE MAY WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>tigrina</i> .....	48
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> .....	49
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica coronata</i> .....	49
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica virens</i> .....	49
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica fusca</i> .....	50
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica dominica</i> .....	50
PINE WARBLER <i>Dendroica pinus</i> .....	50
PRAIRIE WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>discolor</i> .....	51
PALM WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>palmarum</i> .....	51
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	
<i>Dendroica castanea</i> .....	51
BLACKPOLL WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>striata</i> .....	51
CERULEAN WARBLER <i>Dendroica</i>	
<i>cerulea</i> .....	52
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	
<i>Mniotilta varia</i> .....	52
AMERICAN REDSTART <i>Setophaga</i>	
<i>ruticilla</i> .....	52
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i> .....	52
WORM-EATING WARBLER	
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i> .....	53
OVENBIRD <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i> .....	53
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	
<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> .....	53

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH		LAPLAND LONGSPUR <i>Calcarius</i>	
<i>Seiurus motacilla</i> .....	54	<i>lapponicus</i> .....	62
KENTUCKY WARBLER <i>Oporornis</i>		SNOW BUNTING <i>Plectrophenax</i>	
<i>formosus</i> .....	54	<i>nivalis</i> .....	62
CONNECTICUT WARBLER		NORTHERN CARDINAL <i>Cardinalis</i>	
<i>Oporornis agilis</i> .....	54	<i>cardinalis</i> .....	62
MOURNING WARBLER <i>Oporornis</i>		ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	
<i>philadelphia</i> .....	55	<i>Pheucticus lucovicianus</i> .....	62
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT		BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK	
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> .....	55	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> .....	63
HOODED WARBLER <i>Wilsonia</i>		BLUE GROSBEAK <i>Passserina</i>	
<i>citrina</i> .....	56	<i>caerulea</i> .....	63
WILSON'S WARBLER <i>Wilsonia</i>		INDIGO BUNTING <i>Passerina cyanea</i> .....	63
<i>pusilla</i> .....	56	DICKCISSEL <i>Spiza americana</i> .....	63
CANADA WARBLER <i>Wilsonia</i>		BOBOLINK <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> .....	64
<i>canadensis</i> .....	56	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT <i>Icteria</i>		<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> .....	64
<i>virens</i> .....	57	EASTERN MEADOWLARK <i>Sturnella</i>	
SUMMER TANAGER <i>Piranga rubra</i> .....	57	<i>magna</i> .....	64
SCARLET TANAGER <i>Piranga</i>		YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	
<i>olivacea</i> .....	57	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> .....	65
EASTERN TOWHEE <i>Pipilo</i>		RUSTY BLACKBIRD <i>Euphagus</i>	
<i>erythrophthalmus</i> .....	58	<i>carolinus</i> .....	65
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW		BREWER'S BLACKBIRD <i>Euphagus</i>	
<i>Spizella arborea</i> .....	58	<i>cyanoecephalus</i> .....	65
CHIPPING SPARROW <i>Spizella</i>		COMMON GRACKLE <i>Quiscalus</i>	
<i>passerine</i> .....	58	<i>quiscula</i> .....	65
FIELD SPARROW <i>Spizella pusilla</i> .....	59	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	
VESPER SPARROW <i>Pooecetes</i>		<i>Molothrus ater</i> .....	65
<i>gramineus</i> .....	59	ORCHARD ORIOLE <i>Icterus spurius</i> .....	66
LARK SPARROW <i>Chondestes</i>		BALTIMORE ORIOLE <i>Icterus galbula</i> .....	66
<i>grammacus</i> .....	59	PINE GROSBEAK <i>Pinicola enucleator</i> .....	66
SAVANNAH SPARROW <i>Passerculus</i>		PURPLE FINCH <i>Carpodacus</i>	
<i>sandwichensis</i> .....	59	<i>purpureus</i> .....	67
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW		HOUSE FINCH <i>Carpodacus</i>	
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> .....	60	<i>mexicanus</i> .....	67
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW		RED CROSSBILL <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> .....	67
<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i> .....	60	WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL <i>Loxia</i>	
FOX SPARROW <i>Passerella iliaca</i> .....	60	<i>leucoptera</i> .....	67
SONG SPARROW <i>Melospiza melodia</i> .....	60	COMMON REDPOLL <i>Carduelis</i>	
LINCOLN'S SPARROW <i>Melospiza</i>		<i>flammea</i> .....	68
<i>lincolnii</i> .....	60	HOARY REDPOLL <i>Carduelis</i>	
SWAMP SPARROW <i>Melospiza</i>		<i>hornemanni</i> .....	68
<i>georgiana</i> .....	61	PINE SISKIN <i>Carduelis pinus</i> .....	68
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW		AMERICAN GOLDFINCH <i>Carduelis</i>	
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> .....	61	<i>tristis</i> .....	68
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW		EVENING GROSBEAK <i>Coccothraustes</i>	
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> .....	61	<i>vesperinus</i> .....	68
DARK-EYED JUNCO <i>Junco hyemalis</i> .....	61	HOUSE SPARROW <i>Passer domesticus</i> .....	69

## **LIST OF SPECIES**

### **SNOW GOOSE *Chen caerulescens***

One Spring Record: (1) 3 Mar 1989, Lake Moomaw.

One Winter Record: (1) 18 Feb 1988, Lake Moomaw.

### **CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis***

Status: Locally common permanent resident, being most common in winter, on lakes, ponds, and marshes. Breeding populations in the Mountains and Valleys region of Virginia have increased significantly in recent years.

Breeding: Twenty-two adults, 7 half-grown, and 4 young, 11 Jun 1982, Buxton Farm, VA 629, Bath County Foray; 2 adults with 9 young, 10 Jun 1985, pond on US 250 west of Hightown, Highland County Foray; pair with 3 young, 11 Jun 1985, pond on US 220, Highland County Foray; four reports of adults with goslings in Highland County and many reports of goslings in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Confirmed nesting records in two Bath County Atlas blocks.

Peak Count(s): summer - (145) 14 Jun 2003, VA 600, VSO Foray; winter - (213) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw; fall - (150+) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; (79) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw.

Total count of (16) in Highland County and (300) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

### **MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor***

Two Winter Records: (1) 16 Jan 1993, Lake Moomaw; (6) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw.

Note: VARCOM considers this species to be in Category Three - meaning that the swans are of unknown origin, and may be escaped birds, not breeding in the wild.

### **TUNDRA SWAN *Cygnus columbianus***

One Spring Record: (2) 1 Mar 1989, Lake Moomaw.

Five Winter Records: (1) 6 and 11 Jan 1990, Lake Moomaw; (3) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC; (2) 5 Jan 2000, Lake Moomaw; (2) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw; (2) 18 Feb 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**WOOD DUCK** *Aix sponsa*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, found in a variety of lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes, but most common in wooded swamps and ponds having dense woody edges vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 7 Mar 1990 - 18 Oct 1989.

Four Winter Records: (1) 26 Feb 1988, Coursey Springs; (1) 11 Jan 1989, Dice's Pond, US 220; (2) 28 Feb 1989, Headwaters; (1) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Breeding: Multiple breeding records from all VSO forays; confirmed in six Atlas blocks. Five reports of ducklings during 2003 VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): spring - (6) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; fall - (16) 27 Sep 2003, Coursey Springs; (11) 18 Oct 1989, Meadowdale Pond; summer - nine reports of (16) in Bath County and seven reports of (9) in Highland County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 15 Nov 1987 - 26 Feb 1987.

Peak Count(s): fall - (30) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; (13) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw; winter - (20) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC; (179) 18 Feb 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**AMERICAN WIGEON** *Anas americana*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 11 Sep 1986 - 8 Apr 1986.

One Summer Record: (1) 16 Jul 1987, Coursey Springs.

Peak Count(s): (6) 10 Nov 1989, Back Creek Ponds.

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** *Anas rubripes*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Breeding: The Breeding Bird Atlas map shows one confirmed breeding record in Bath County.

Extreme Dates: 29 Oct 1987 - 18 Mar 1987.

Peak Count(s): fall - (33) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw; winter - (77) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, most common in winter, on lakes, ponds, marshes, and rivers.

Breeding: Six adults, 2 downy young, and 5 half-grown young, 10 Jun 1982, Dice's Pond on US 220, Bath County Foray; female with ducklings, 15 Jun 2003, Lake Moomaw, VSO Foray. Confirmed breeding in two Bath County Atlas Blocks.

Peak Count(s): spring - (6) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - several counts of (12) adults in the upper Cowpasture and at Lake Moomaw and only (6) adults reported in Highland County during VSO Foray 2003; fall - (45) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; winter - (63) 3 Dec 1986, Lake Moomaw; (112) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** *Anas discors*

Status: Uncommon transient, rare winter visitor, on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 1989 - 3 May 1988; 26 Aug 1985 - 8 Nov 1986.

Breeding: Pair with 5 young, Bath County, summer 1986. One to three pairs reported breeding every summer at Coursey Springs.

One Winter Record: (1) 10 Dec 1986, Lake Moomaw.

Peak Count(s): (9) 8 Apr 1987, Lake Moomaw.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Two Spring Records: (7) 8 Apr 1987, Lake Moomaw; (8) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County.

One Summer Record: (1) 7 Jun 2003, Lake Moomaw, presumably a non-breeder or injured bird.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

One Fall Record: (1) 10 Oct 1989, Mill Creek Pond, Bath County.

Three Winter Records: (1) 26 Jan 1985, Lake Moomaw; (5) 22 Feb 1988, Lake Moomaw; (1) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas crecca*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 30 Sep 2000 - 31 Mar 1987.

Peak Count(s): fall - (7) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; winter - (17) 14 Jan 2002, Lake Moomaw.

Recent record: (9) 19 Jan 2004, Lake Moomaw.

**CANVASBACK** *Aythya valisineria*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: Unknown.

One Spring Record: (1) 17 Mar 1987, Back Creek Ponds.

One Winter Record: (1) 6 and 11 Jan 1989, Mill Creek Pond, US 220.

**REDHEAD** *Aythya americana*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on ponds and lakes.

Extreme Dates: 19 Dec 1996 - 4 Apr 1973.

Peak Count(s): spring - (8) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; winter - (14) 25 Feb 1989, Lake Moomaw; (8) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** *Aythya collaris*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 29 Oct 1987 - 4 Apr 1973.

Peak Count(s): spring - (386) 26 Mar 1981, Lake Moomaw; fall - (196) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw; winter - (151) 4 Jan 2004, Lake Moomaw.

**GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 25 Feb 1989 - 29 Apr 1987.

Peak Count(s): spring - (75) 30 Mar 1982, Lake Moomaw; winter - (18) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

**LESSER SCAUP** *Aythya affinis*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 8 Oct 1986 - 3 May 1988.

One Summer Record: (2) on farm pond on US 220, 11 Jun 2003, VSO Foray (also seen several weeks earlier in this location).

Peak Count(s): spring - (150) 22 Mar 1983, Lake Moomaw; fall - (15+) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata*

One Record: (1) 5 - 7 Dec 1985, Lake Moomaw.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

Two Spring Records: (1) 4 Apr 1973, Dices's Pond on US 220; (1) 2 Mar 2003, Dice's Pond.

One Winter Record: (1) 11-23 Feb 1977, Bath County.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*

Three Spring Records: (20) 4 Apr 1973, Dice's Pond on US 220; (2) 9 Apr 1988, Back Creek Ponds; (1) 15 Apr 1990, Back Creek Ponds.

Note: This is likely a rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds; exact status unknown.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 15 Nov 1987 - 17 Mar 1988.

Peak Count(s): (24) 4 Jan 1988, Lake Moomaw; (24) 6 Jan 1989, Lake Moomaw.

**BUFFLEHEAD** *Bucephala albeola*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 16 Nov 1986 - 4 Apr 1973.

Peak Count(s): spring - (25) 2 Mar 2003, Dice's Pond; (103) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; fall - (6) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; winter- (9) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC; (185) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw.

**HOODED MERGANSER** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 6 Nov 1986 - 25 Apr 1990.

Two Summer Records: (1) 6 Jul 1989, pond in Monterey; adult female and two nearly grown young, 11 Jun 2003, Douthat State Park, VSO Foray. Note: First known breeding record for the Mountains and Valleys Region in Virginia.

Peak Count(s): spring - (23) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; fall - (10+) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; (9) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw; winter - (49) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

**COMMON MERGANSER** *Mergus merganser*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 6 Jan 1989 - 7 Apr 1993.

Peak Count(s): spring - (23) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; winter - (18) 25 Feb 1989, Lake Moomaw.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Note: We list these as uncommon (rather than accidental) believing that they occur more often than our presently available records would indicate.

Extreme Dates: Unknown.

Spring Records: 30 Mar 1988 - 11 May 1988; (36) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County.

Two Summer Records: (1) Lake Moomaw and (1) Cowpasture River, 1982 Bath County Foray.

Peak Count(s): (26) 11 May 1988, Lake Moomaw.

**RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 8 Nov 1986 - 29 Apr 1987.

Peak Count(s): spring - (6) 8 Apr 1987, Back Creek Ponds; fall - (80) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**RUFFED GROUSE** *Bonasa umbellus*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in woodlands throughout much of the county, being most abundant in mountainous areas.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding records from all VSO Breeding Bird Forays and numerous blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Three reports of hens with chicks, 8 Jun 2003 and 10 Jun 2003, in Highland County, and 11 Jun 2003 in Bath County 2003 VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): fall - (6) 14 Dec 1986, Jack Mt.; winter - (11) 1 Jan 1960, McDowell CBC.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray indicate that there were (13) adults in Highland County, less than half the number reported in two previous forays, and (5) in Bath County.

**WILD TURKEY** *Meleagris gallopavo*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in woodlands throughout the two counties, being most abundant in mountainous areas.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding records on all VSO forays; present in a good number of blocks in the Breeding Bird Atlas, with several confirmed records. Precocial young reported near Doe Hill, 9 Jun 2003 and FR 55, 11 Jun 2003, during VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): spring - (9) 6 Apr 1988, Lantz Mt.; fall - (12) 16 Oct 1988, Jack Mt. There were twelve reports in each county, totaling over (40) adults during 2003 VSO Foray.



**NORTHERN BOBWHITE** *Colinus virginianus*

Status: Formerly uncommon, now a rare permanent resident in fields, agricultural areas, and brush woodland edges.

Breeding: Present during all VSO forays; recorded as probable breeder in Bath County and confirmed in Highland County during Breeding Bird Atlas.

One Spring Record: (1) 1 Mar 1994, Bath County.

Peak Count(s): (18) 22 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (11) 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (6) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

There were no reports in Highland County, and only (2) birds were counted in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**RED-THROATED LOON** *Gavia stellata*

One Spring Record: (1) 16 Mar 2003, Lake Moomaw.

One Fall Record: (1) 23 Aug 1982, Lake Moomaw.

One Winter Record: (1) 3 Dec 1986, Lake Moomaw.

**COMMON LOON** *Gavia immer*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor, primarily on larger lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 23 Aug 1985 - 9 May 1989.

Two Summer Records: (1) Jul 1985, Highland County; (4) 30 Jul 2002, Lake Moomaw.

Peak Count(s): spring - (8) 11 May 1988, Lake Moomaw; fall - (11) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** *Podilymbus podiceps*

Status: Common to uncommon transient and uncommon winter resident, primarily on lakes and ponds, but also on rivers.

Extreme Dates: 21 Sep 1987 - 9 May 1987.

Two Summer Records: (1) 10 Jun 1982, FR 282 and (1) 10 Jun 1982, Cowpasture River, Bath County Foray.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding in Sunrise NE2 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): fall - (9) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw; winter - (16) 13 Feb 1989, Lake Moomaw.

Recent record: (1) 17 Jan 2004, Lake Moomaw.

**HORNED GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter visitor on lakes and ponds, less frequently on rivers.

Extreme Dates: 26 Aug 1987 - 15 Apr 1989.

Peak Count(s): winter - (11) 25 Feb 1988, Lake Moomaw; spring - (51) 4 Apr 1973, Dice's Pond on US 220, Bath County; (10) 2 Mar 2003, Dice's Pond.

Recent record: (1) 17 Jan 2004, Lake Moomaw.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*

Two Spring Records: (1) 16 Mar 2003, Lake Moomaw; (2) 8 Mar 2003, Lake Moomaw.

One Fall Record: (1) 27 Nov 1989, Lake Moomaw.

Two Winter Records: (1) 25 Feb 1987, Back Creek Lake; (1) 18 Feb 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Status: Rare spring transient on lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Extreme Dates: 13 Apr 1988 - 14 May 2004.

One Summer Record: (1) 13 Jun 1985, Back Creek Ponds.

Two Fall Records: (1) 10 Nov 1988, Lake Moomaw; (1) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw.

One Winter Record: (1) 14 Dec 1999, Lake Moomaw.

Peak Count(s): (10) 25 Apr 1981, Lake Moomaw.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** *Botaurus lentiginosus*

One Spring Record: (1) 3 May 1987, Jack Mountain Pond on VA 615.

**LEAST BITTERN** *Ixobrychus exilis*

One Spring Record: (1) 13 May 1985, Back Creek Lake.

One Summer Record: (1) 21 Jul 1985, Back Creek Lake.

One Fall Record: (2) 2 Aug 1985, Back Creek Lake.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** *Ardea herodias*

Status: Uncommon but widespread permanent resident in moist fields and a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats.

Breeding: One record, nest with young, 9 Jun 1989, Thornwood Quad - SE priority block; confirmed record in the Atlas Maps Book but was not submitted to VARCOM.

Peak Count(s): fall - (49) 17 Nov 1987, Coursey Springs; winter - (36) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

Four were reported, all in Bath County, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**GREAT EGRET** *Ardea alba*

One Summer Record: (1) 15 Jul 1990, Jackson River near Bolar.

**SNOWY EGRET** *Egretta thula*

One Summer Record: (2) 20-24 Jul 1984, Lake Moomaw.

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

One Summer Record: (1) 10 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw.

**GREEN HERON** *Butorides striata*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 6 May 1987 - 14 Aug 1987.

Breeding: Almost certainly breeds, but no confirmed breeding record. Two adults (possible pair) gathering food, 7 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): (6) 22 Jun 1978, Bullpasture and Cowpasture River drainage, Highland County Foray; (6) 9 Jun 1982, southwestern section, Bath County Foray.

There were (4) birds reported in Highland County and (13) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One Summer Record: (1) 20-21 Jul 1985, Lake Moomaw.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nyctanassa violacea*

One Summer Record: (1) 10 Jun 1985, VA 648, Doe Hill Atlas Block.

**BLACK VULTURE** *Coragyps atratus*

Status: Rare permanent resident, with only a few winter records.

Breeding: Almost certainly breeds, but no confirmed breeding evidence.

Peak Count(s): summer - (14) 16 Jun 1985, Jackson River Valley, Highland County Foray; (4) 7 Jun, near Bolar, Highland County and (4) 11 Jun, Hidden Valley, Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (12) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

There were (10) birds counted in Highland County and (8) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**TURKEY VULTURE** *Cathartes aura*

Status: Common permanent resident, less common in winter.

Breeding: Almost certainly breeds, but no confirmed breeding evidence.

Peak Count(s): spring - (47) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (47) 12 Jun 1985, Jackson River Valley, near Big Valley, Highland County Foray; (22) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

Common in both counties, with total counts exceeding 450 birds and many reports of (10) or more during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: Uncommon transient. Seen widely at rivers, lakes, and ponds. There are a number of summer records, especially at Coursey Springs, possibly unmated males that find sufficient food supply at the fishery.

Extreme Dates: 2 Apr 1987 - 17 Oct 1937.

Peak Count(s): (22) 27 Sep 1989, Coursey Springs.

Only (2) were counted in Highland County and (2) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Two Summer Records: (1) 9 Jun 1982, VA 600 about 6.5 miles south of US 39, Bath County Foray; (1) 23 Jun 1988, Highland County, just south of VA 642 where it crosses Straight Fork.

**BALD EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, increasing in recent years, seen at rivers, lakes, and ponds. Breeding:

Breeding: On VA 600 near the Virginia Power Pumped Storage Facility beginning in 1989. Nest with young, March 1991 (snow storm toppled the nest tree in 1993). A pair of adults were observed, one carrying nesting material, at Forks of Water on 27 Feb 2004.

Peak Count(s): summer - (10) in Highland County and (8) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (13) 17 Jan 2004, Lake Moomaw.

**NORTHERN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident, usually seen over open fields.

Extreme Dates: 24 Aug 1989 - 19 Mar 1990.

Recent record: (1) 17 Jan 2004, Highland County.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** *Accipiter striatus*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, more common during migration.

Breeding: Most certainly breeds in Bath and Highland Counties, but no confirmed breeding record. Appeared on all VSO forays, and in several blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (6) were reported (six reports of single birds) in Highland County and (1) report in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**COOPER'S HAWK** *Accipiter cooperii*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, more common during migration.

Breeding: Most certainly breeds in Bath and Highland Counties, but no confirmed breeding record. Appeared on all Highland County VSO forays and present in one block in Bath and one in Highland during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (3) were reported in Highland County and (3) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

Three Spring Records: (1) 30 Mar 1980, Highland County; (1) 26 May 1986, Locust Springs, Highland County; (1) 19 Mar 1991, Highland County.

One Summer Record: (1) 18 Jun 1990, Middle Mt., Highland County.

One Fall Record: (1) 22 Sep 1986, Back Creek Valley, Highland County.

Three Winter Records: (1) 27 Feb 1987, below Hightown; (1) 2 Feb 2002, Highland County; (1) 9 Feb 2004, 220 S of Monterey.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** *Buteo lineatus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident and rare breeder in bottomland forests and at woodland edges.

Breeding: Nest, June 1985, Slab Camp Run, Locust Springs, VSO Highland County Foray. Recorded in summer during all VSO forays and in several blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (14) in Highland County and (10) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (5) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** *Buteo platypterus*

Status: Common spring transient, uncommon summer resident, and abundant fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 19 Apr 1987 - 30 Aug 1987.

Breeding: Two adults with recently fledged young, 6 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray. Confirmed in two Bath County blocks, and reported in several blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (5) 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; fall - (682) 24 Sep 1971, Monterey Mt.

There were seven reports of single birds and one report of (3) in Highland County and a total of (13) birds, widely distributed in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo jamaicensis*

Status: Common permanent resident, more common during migration and in winter.

Breeding: Recorded on all VSO forays. Confirmed nesting in Highland County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project and recorded in the majority of the priority Atlas blocks.

Peak Count(s): summer - (7) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; winter - (21) 18 Dec 1997, Jack Mt. WMA; (21) 18 Dec 1997, Highland CBC.

Twenty-eight counted in Highland County and (13) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** *Buteo lagopus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident.

Extreme Dates: 6 Nov 1987 - 9 May 1989.

Peak Count(s): winter - (6) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC; (8) 18 Dec, 2003, Highland County; (18) 31 Jan 2004, Highland County.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos*

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 17 Aug 1986 - 19 Apr 1989.

One Summer Record: (1) 11-16 Jun 1985, Lantz Mt., VSO Highland County Foray.

Peak Count(s): (8) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**AMERICAN KESTREL** *Falco sparverius*

Status: Uncommon spring transient and winter resident, less common summer resident; common fall transient.

Breeding: Breeding confirmed in both counties during VSO forays and Breeding Bird Atlas Project; adults feeding young, 8 Jun 2003, south of Monterey during VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): summer - (12) 7 Jul 1988, Blue Grass Valley; fall - (10) 24 Sep 1971, Monterey Mt.; winter - (11) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

Fourteen reported in Highland County and (5) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

Four Fall Records: (1) 22 Sep 1986, Back Creek Valley; (1) 30 Sep 2000, Fort Lewis Lodge; (1) 9 Nov 2002, VA 637, Highland County; (1) 25 Oct 2003, VA 620 near Doe Hill.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

One Summer Record: (1) 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

Two Fall Records: (1) 5 Sep 1988, Blue Grass Valley; (1) 30 Sep 2000, Fort Lewis Lodge.

**KING RAIL** *Rallus elegans*

One Record: (1) 29 Sept 2002, Coursey Springs.

**SORA** *Porzana carolina*

One Record: (1) dead specimen, Feb or Mar 2004, VA 637, Bandy farm between Hightown and Blue Grass.

**COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

One Record: (1) April 1963, found exhausted on Warm Springs Mountain. Kept for three days then released.

**AMERICAN COOT** *Fulica americana*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in ponds, lakes, marshes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 31 Oct 1986 - 6 May 1987.

Peak Count(s): (1000+) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw; (1337) 18 Feb 2001, Lake Moomaw; (28) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** *Charadrius semipalmatus*

One Spring Record: (1) 18 May 1988, Blue Grass Pond on 642.

Two Fall Records: (1) 14 Aug 1987 and (2) 25 Aug 1987, Lake Moomaw.

**KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus*

Status: Common transient and summer resident and uncommon winter resident in a variety of open habitats, including pastures, agricultural fields, marshy pond margins, and vacant lots.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding records during VSO forays and Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): winter - (7) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC; summer - (21) 21 Jun 1975, Blue Grass Valley, VSO Highland County Foray; (10) 7 Jun 2003, Blue Grass Valley, VSO Foray; fall - (48) 25 Aug 1987, Lake Moomaw.

There were sixteen reports from Highland County, most of multiple birds, and ten reports of one to two birds in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa melanoleuca*

Status: Uncommon transient, most common in spring. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 10 Mar 1988 - 6 May 1989; 2 Aug 1987 - 30 Oct 1989.

Peak Count(s): (6) 30 Apr - 4 May 1987, Meadowdale Pond.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa flavipes*

Status: Uncommon transient, most common in spring. Seen at the marshy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 15 Apr - 3 May 1987; 2 Aug 1989 - 24 Sep 1989.

Peak Count(s): (11) 30 Apr 1987, Meadowdale Pond.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** *Tringa solitaria*

Status: Uncommon transient at the muddy edges of ponds and lakes, in flooded fields, and along river margins. Often seen singly at small pools and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 6 Apr 1988 - 24 May 1987; 1 Aug 1987 - 4 Sep 1989.

Five Summer Records: (1) 25 Jul 1964, Newman Run; (1) 25 Jul and (1) 29 Jul 1986; (2) 25 Jul 1988, all at pond on VA 642, Blue Grass Valley; (1), 11 Jul 1989, pond at Locust Springs.

Peak Count(s): (8) 27 Apr 1989, Hevener's Pond, US 250 Hightown.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** *Actitis macularius*

Status: Uncommon transient, and possible rare summer breeder. Seen at the edges of ponds, lakes, and rivers, and in flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 5 Aug 1986 - 25 Aug 1986.

One Summer Record: (2) 8 Jun 1982, Coursey Springs.

Breeding: Possible breeder, but no breeding records.

Peak Count(s): (5) 5 Aug 1986, Lake Moomaw.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

One Record: (1) 30 May 1986, Coursey Springs.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** *Calidris pusilla*

One Spring Record: (1) 26 May 1987, Hevener's Pond, US 250 Hightown.

Four Fall Records: (1) 5 Aug 1986, Lake Moomaw; (1) 8 Sep 1986, Blue Grass Valley, VA 642; (2) 14 Aug 1987, Lake Moomaw; (1) 25 Aug 1987, Lake Moomaw.



**LEAST SANDPIPER** *Calidris minutilla*

Status: Uncommon transient, most common in spring. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 20 Apr 1988 - 15 May 1990; 7 Aug 1986 - 25 Aug 1987.

Peak Count(s): spring - (15) 14 May 2003, Blue Grass Valley; fall - (6) 25 Aug 1987, Lake Moomaw.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

Status: Uncommon transient at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 26 Mar 1988 - 29 Apr 1987; 5 Aug 1986 - 24 Sep 1986.

Peak Count(s): (3) 25 Aug 1986, Lake Moomaw.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus griseus*

One Spring Record: (1) 29 Mar 1988, Hevener's Pond, US 250 Hightown.

One Fall Record: (1) 6 Sep 1989, Blue Grass Valley, VA 642.

**WILSON'S SNIPE** *Gallinago delicata*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident at the edges of pond, lakes, and flooded fields, often in areas with short herbaceous vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 8 Sep 1986 - 22 Apr 1988.

Peak Count(s): (18) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK** *Scolopax minor*

Status: Uncommon spring transient and summer resident

Extreme Dates: 5 Mar 1990 - 3 Nov 1988.

Breeding: Almost certainly breeds, but no confirmed breeding evidence. Recorded on VSO Highland County Foray 1975 and Bath County Foray 1982, but no confirmed breeding record.

Peak Count(s): summer - (3) 20 Jun 1975, VSO Highland County Foray; fall - (3) 3 Nov 1988, Headwaters, VA 616.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Larus philadelphia*

Status: Rare spring transient.

Extreme Dates: 1 Apr 1987- 25 Apr 1989.

Two Fall Records: (8) 9 Nov 2002, Lake Moomaw; (8) 16 Nov 2003, Lake Moomaw.

Peak Count(s): (44) 8 Apr 1988, Hevener's Pond, US 250 Hightown; (15) 25 Apr 1989, Lake Moomaw.

**RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

Status: Rare spring transient.

Extreme Dates: 8 Mar 1989 - 21 May 1987.

Four Summer Records: (9) 10 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw (present throughout Bath County Foray); (1) 21 Jul 1985, Lake Moomaw; (1) 10 Jun 2003, Monterey; (1) 13 Jun 2003, Lake Moomaw, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

Three Winter Records: (1) 22 Feb 1989, Lake Moomaw; (27) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw; (1) 4 Jan, 2004, Bath County.

Peak Count(s): (45) 18 Mar 1987, Lake Moomaw.

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

One Spring Record: (1) 18 Mar 1987, Lake Moomaw.

One Summer Record: (1) 10,12,13 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw, Bath County Foray.

One Winter Record: (9) 14 Jan 2001, Lake Moomaw.

**CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia*

One Spring Record: (3) 18 May 2002, Lake Moomaw.

One Summer Record: (1) 20 Jul 1984, Lake Moomaw.

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

One Summer Record: (1) 10 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw, Bath County Foray.

**FORSTER'S TERN** *Sterna forsteri*

One Spring Record: (1) 18 May 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**BLACK TERN** *Chidonias niger*

Two Spring Records: (2) 26 May 1988, Back Creek Ponds; (2) 28 May 2002, Lake Moomaw.

**ROCK PIGEON** *Columva livia*

Status: Common permanent resident (introduced), less common in winter, breeding in buildings and bridges and foraging in agricultural fields and a variety of urban habitats.

Breeding: Recorded on all Bath and Highland County VSO forays, and confirmed breeding during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (40) 7 Jun 2003, VSO Foray; winter - (15) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

There were (43) birds reported in Highland County and only (6) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**MOURNING DOVE** *Zenaida macroura*

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitat types, usually foraging in open areas and avoiding dense, extensive woodlands.

Breeding: Recorded on all VSO forays and confirmed breeding records during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (20) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; winter - (74) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC. Over 100 birds reported from each county during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 17 Apr 2004 - 27 Jul 1988.

Breeding: Recorded during Bath County Foray in 1982 and in two Atlas blocks in both counties. Almost certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding evidence.

Peak Count(s): There were eight reports totaling (13) birds: (5) in Highland County and (8) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus americanus*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, nesting primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 19 May 1988 - 16 Oct 1987.

Breeding: Adult on nest, 12 Jun 2003, US 42 near Nimrod Hall, VSO Foray. Adult carrying food, 7 Jun 2003, VA 678, Highland County, VSO Foray. Recorded during all four VSO Breeding Bird Forays, and in a number of Atlas blocks in both counties.

Peak Count(s): (14) 15 Jun 2003, Bullpasture River Valley; (13) 13 Jun 2003, including one adult carrying food, VA 629 Bath County, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were twenty-two reports mostly of one to two birds in Highland County and twenty-four reports in Bath County, seven of which were more than (5) birds.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

Status: Rare permanent resident, nesting primarily in artificial structures such as barns, silos, and old buildings.

Breeding: Was not recorded during VSO forays, but was recorded in one Atlas block in each county during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Almost certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding evidence.

Only other available records are from Monterey in July, August, and September 1988.

**EASTERN SCREECH-OWL *Megascops asio***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitat types.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays and in three Atlas blocks in Highland County; recorded in a number of Atlas blocks and confirmed at two locations in Bath County during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Almost certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding evidence.

Only two reports of single birds in Highland County, 7 Jun 2003, and no report in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**GREAT HORNED OWL *Bubo virginianus***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays and a few Atlas blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Almost certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding evidence. There was no report from Highland County, and only one, 12 Jun 2003, on Back Creek Mountain, Bath County, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BARRED OWL *Strix varia***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Breeding: Three fuzzy-headed young, 16 Jun 1985, VSO Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays and in one Atlas block in Bath County during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

There were seven reports mostly of single birds in Highland County and three reports in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus***

One Summer Record: (4) 20 Jun 1975, between Back Creek and Bearcamp Knob, VSO Foray.

**SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus***

Two Winter Records: (1) 19 Dec 1979, Blue Grass Valley; (2) 18 Dec 2003, NW Blue Grass.

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL *Aegolius acadicus***

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in northwestern Highland County.

Breeding: Adult at nest with 2 eggs, 13 Mar 1995, Laurel Fork (first Virginia breeding record).

Summer Records: Recorded on 1982, 1985, and 2003 VSO Forays, all reports from western ridge, most from Locust Springs.

There was only one report from Locust Springs: one bird calling 7 and 8 Jun 2003 during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** *Chordeiles minor*

Status: Uncommon fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 22 Aug 1986 - 9 Sep 1989.

One Summer Record: Recorded in Nimrod Hall Atlas block in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Not recorded during any of the four VSO forays.

Peak Count(s): (32) 6 Sep 1987, Monterey.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

One Summer Record: (1) 11 Jun 1982, on VA 600, app. 4.9 miles from US 39, VSO Bath County Foray.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** *Caprimulgus vociferus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in a variety of woodland types.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 2002 - 11 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Almost certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding evidence. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in Monterey and Mustoe Atlas blocks, and in numerous Bath County Atlas blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Only (2) birds were heard calling in Highland County, and (7) heard in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray, suggesting a significant decline in this species.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT** *Chaetura pelagica*

Status: Common transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 20 Apr 1987 - 30 Sep 2001.

Breeding: Two apparently fresh, but unoccupied nests, 20 Jul 1938, "Devil's Backbone," Highland County. Recorded on all four VSO forays, and in numerous Atlas blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (24) 8 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

Of thirty-eight reports during the 2003 VSO Foray, sixteen included more than (5) birds, and five included more than (10).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitat types.

Extreme Dates: 16 Apr 2001-12 October 2002.

Breeding: Nest, 15 Jun 1985, along Bullpasture River, Highland County Foray; fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, near Millboro, during VSO Foray. Recorded on all four forays and in many blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (6) 7 Jun 2003, Blue Grass Valley; (5) 13 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley during VSO Foray; fall - (14) 11 Sep 1987, Coursey Springs.

More than thirty reports, nearly twice as many in Bath County than in Highland County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BELTED KINGFISHER** *Ceryle alcyon*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, seen along rivers and streams and around ponds and lakes.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 8 Jun 2003, VA 600, Highland County, during 2003 VSO Foray. Confirmed breeding in Minnehaha Springs and Bath Alum Atlas blocks and reported in many additional blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project; recorded in all four VSO Forays.

Peak Count(s): summer - (4) 8 Jun 2003 near Doe Hill, VSO Foray; winter - (11) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Of the twenty-two combined reports during the 2003 VSO Foray, about one half (20 birds) came from north of US 250 in Highland County; the rest were widely scattered throughout both counties.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Status: Rare permanent resident in oak woodlands.

Breeding: Two adults feeding young in nest, 15 Jun 1985, VSO Highland County Foray; active nest hole, 9 Jun, near intersection VA 637 and 638 intersection and adults at possible nest hole, 7 Jun on VA 618, during 2003 VSO Foray. Recorded on all three Highland County forays; recorded in one Atlas block during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (5) 11 Sep 1989, Blue Grass Valley; (15) total birds in Highland County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** *Melanerpes carolinus*

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Two adults feeding 2 young, 13 Jun 1985, VA 613, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays, with increased numbers in both counties in 2003. Confirmed in Bath Alum, Bath County, and recorded in a number of blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (24) total birds in Highland and about (40) in Bath during 2003 VSO Foray; winter -(13) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus varius*

Status: Uncommon transient, rare winter visitor, and summer resident at high elevations.

Breeding: Pair carrying food into nest hole, 11 Jun 1982, Paddy Knob (4000 ft), Bath County Foray; two adults feeding young, 14 Jun 1985, VA 601, Highland County Foray; pre-nesting, nesting and feeding behavior observed, May - June 2004, VA 601. Recorded on all four forays with increased numbers in 2003; recorded in Thornwood block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (14), 25 Jun 1964, Highland County; winter - (8) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Total of (34) birds in Highland County and only (1) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER** *Picoides pubescens*

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Adult at nest hole, 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; adults with recently fledged young, 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; adults feeding young in nest cavity, 7 Jun 2003, Bear Mountain Farm, 2003 VSO Foray. Confirmed breeding in Mountain Grove, Bath County Atlas block, and recorded in a number of blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (10) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; winter - (29) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Total of approximately (30) birds in each county during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER *Picoides villosus***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of woodland types; generally less common than Downy Woodpecker in any season.

Breeding: Pair feeding fledged young, 16 Jun 1985, VA 616, Highland County Foray; adults feeding young in nest cavity, 31 May, 2002, Allegheny Mt. Road, Richmond Audubon Society field trip; adults feeding fledged young, 7 Jun 2003, VA 616 in Highland County during VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; confirmed breeding in Healing Springs Atlas block, and recorded in a number of blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (10) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Total of eighteen reports, mostly of single birds in Highland and seven reports in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**NORTHERN FLICKER *Colaptes auratus***

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, less common in winter, in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Adults, with young in nest, 19 Jun 1975, Blue Grass Valley, Highland County Foray; two adults feeding 4 large young, 8 Jun 1982, VA 629 south of US 39, Bath County Foray; active nest cavity, 12 Jun 2003, VA 629 in Bath County and single fledged young, 7 Jun 2003, VA 637, Highland County, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four forays; confirmed in a number of blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (17) 21 Jun 1975, south of Monterey, Highland County Foray; winter - (9) 18 Dec 1987, Highland County CBC.

Total of about 150 birds recorded during the 2003 VSO Foray, evenly divided between Bath and Highland Counties.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus pileatus***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in mature woodlands.

Breeding: Adult at nest cavity, 12 Jun 1982, southeast section, Bath County Foray; adult on nest, 13 Jun 1985, McDowell, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all three Highland County forays. Confirmed breeding in Warm Springs and Bath Alum and recorded in numerous blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (9) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; winter - (28) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Total of nearly 100 birds, evenly divided between Bath and Highland Counties during the 2003 VSO Foray.



**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** *Contopus cooperi*

Three Spring Records: (1) singing, 21 May 1987, beaver ponds on VA 600, below Mountain Grove; (1) singing, 18 May, along VA 642, Lantz Mt.; (1) 9 May 2004, west of Jack Mt. along VA 624.

One Summer Record: “several,” possibly family group, 20 Jun 1938, “Devil’s Backbone,” Highland County.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus virens*

Status: Common and widespread summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 9 May 1990 - 12 Oct 2003.

Breeding: Adult with two fledged young, 13 Jun 1985, Jack Mt., Highland County Foray; adults carrying nest material, 8 Jun 2003 Paddy Knob; recently fledged young, 9 Jun 2003, during VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays, confirmed in both counties and present in many blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (22) 15 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (14) 14 Jun 2003, 2003 VSO Foray.

Totals of (60) in Highland County and (90) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris*

Three Fall Records: (1) 28 Aug 1987 and (1) 1 Sep 1987, Jack Mt. WMA; (1) 7 Sep 1988, Straight Fork, Middle Mountain.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax virens*

Status: Common transient and summer resident in cool forests, often in bottomlands near water. Fall status not well known because of identification difficulties.

Extreme Dates: 2 May 1987 - 25 Jul 1987.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded but not confirmed, in many blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (20) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (40) 13 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

Totals of (65) in Highland County and (100) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident, found most often in the area of Straight Fork, and previously at Hidden Valley. Fall status not well known because of identification difficulties.

Extreme Dates: 26 May 1987 - 12 Jun 1985.

Breeding: Probably breeds but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded on VSO forays and in Monterey SW and Bath Alum blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER *Empidonax traillii***

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in semi-open bottomland woodlands and riparian habitats. Fall status not well known because of identification difficulties.

Extreme Dates: 18 May 1898 - 19 Jun 1990.

Breeding: Most certainly breeds but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded on all four VSO forays and in several blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (14) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (4) 13 Jun 2003 Hidden Valley, VSO Foray. Population may have decreased since the 1980s.

There were only (9) reported in Highland and (4) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus***

Status: Uncommon spring transient in woodlands, primarily at higher elevations. Fall status not well known because of identification difficulties. Breeds at high elevations.

Extreme Dates: 7 May 1987 - 29 Sep 2002.

Breeding: Adults feeding 2 fledglings, 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; two reports of incubating adults, 8 Jun 2003, Paddy Knob, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood and Mustoe blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project; and as possible breeder in Monterey SE.

Peak Count(s): (40) 17 Jun 1973, Highland County; (25) singing males, 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray.

Totals of (51) in Highland County and (30) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe***

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, nesting primarily on bridges, buildings, and other artificial structures.

Extreme Dates: 4 Mar 2004 - 30 Nov 1988.

Five Winter Records: (1) 20 Feb 1987, Coursey Springs; (1) 12 Jan 1988, Bath County; (1) 17 Jan 1989, Coursey Springs; (3) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Breeding: Adult on nest with 3 eggs, 8 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; adult with 3 fledglings, 19 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; adults feeding fledglings, 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray. Many reports on all four forays; confirmed breeding in most blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Six reports of active nests, one report of recently used nest, and four reports of fledged young in Highland County; three active nests in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray. May have the most confirmed accounts of breeding of any species during this foray.

Peak Count(s): (40) 11 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (19) 8 Jun, Highland County and (22) 15 Jun, Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**SAY'S PHOEBE** *Sayornis saya*

Two Records: (1) (photographed) 1 Dec 1985 - 10 Apr 1986, VA 640; (1) Jan 2003, VA 637 in Blue Grass Valley; dead specimen, documentation is being submitted to VARCOM.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 26 Apr 1990 - 29 Sep 2001.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding on three VSO forays; recorded in majority of blocks, and confirmed in a few blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (22) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (20) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (10) 10 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

There were fifty reports with a total of (180) birds during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding at woodland edges, in farmland, and in trees surrounded by open fields.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 1987 - 29 Sep 2002.

Breeding: Adult feeding young in nest, 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; adult on nest, 8 Jun 2003, VA 614/616, Highland County, during VSO Foray. Recorded on all four forays; recorded in many blocks, and confirmed in several blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (13) 12 Jun 1985, Jackson River Valley, Highland County Foray.

There were twenty-nine reports, mostly of one to three birds during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus savana*

One Record: (1) (photographed) 28 Sep 2002, Coursey Springs.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** *Lanius ludovicianus*

Status: Uncommon to rare permanent resident in farmland and open areas with scattered trees and shrubs, although dramatic declines have occurred in recent years.

Breeding: Pair with fledged young, 12 Jun 1985, VA 644, Blue Grass Valley, Highland County Foray; 2 adults feeding 1 young, 3 Jul 1987, VA 678, Clover Creek; 2 adults feeding 2 young, 5 Jun 1988, VA 614, Hightown; pair completing nest, 8 Jun, 2003, VA 604 near Mill Gap, VSO Foray. Breeding confirmed in Snowy Mountain, Monterey SE, and McDowell blocks in Highland County, and in Nimrod Hall block in Bath County, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Only (1) reported in Bath County and (3) in Highland during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** *Vireo griesus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields and woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1989 - 9 Oct 1989.

One Winter Record: (1) 7 Dec 1987, Lake Moomaw. Note: young bird, identified by yellow spectacles, dark eye, wing bar, yellow sides and white throat, foraging for insects and sampling autumn olive berries.

Breeding: Recorded on all four forays but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded in two Highland County blocks, and ten in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; confirmed breeding in Paddy Knob, Sunrise, and Nimrod Hall blocks.

Peak Count(s): (6) 9 Jun 1982, Hidden Valley, Bath County Foray; (14) 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray.

Three reported in Highland County and sixteen reports of up to (38) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** *Vireo flavifrons*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1989 - 29 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Recorded on all four forays but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded in four blocks in Highland County and many blocks in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project but no confirmed breeding record.

Peak Count(s): (12) 21 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray.

There were six reports totaling (16) birds in Highland County, and fourteen reports with a total of (34) birds reported in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray, approximately half the numbers of prior forays.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in mixed forests above 2500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 3 Apr 1989 - 27 Oct 1986.

Breeding: Adults feeding young, 12 Jun 1985, Shenandoah Mt., Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four forays with only one confirmed breeding record. Recorded in a number of blocks, confirmed in McDowell block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (8) 17 Jun 1973, Highland County; (7) reported by several groups during 1975 and 1985 Highland County forays.

There were eighteen reports totaling (80) birds in Highland County and eleven reports totaling (45) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**WARBLING VIREO** *Vireo gilvus*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in bottomlands and riparian woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 2 May 1987 and 1989 - 28 Sep 2002.

Breeding: Pair at nest, 1 Jun 2002, Richmond Audubon Society Field Trip; pair carrying nest material, 14 Jun 2003, VA 601, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded on two Highland County forays, but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded in three blocks in Highland and one in Bath County, confirmed in Monterey NE2 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (3) 4 Jun 1989, Forks of Water; (4) 13 Jun 2003 in Bath County, during 2003 VSO Foray.

Nine birds counted in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray, and while not recorded during foray, one bird was seen on 6 Jun 2003 in Highland County.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** *Vireo philadelphicus*

One Spring Record: (1) 20 May 1989, Jack Mt. WMA.

Three Fall Records: (1) 21 Sep 1986, Shenandoah Mt.; (1) 12 Sep 1988, Jack Mt. WMA; (1) 30 Sep 2001, Fort Lewis Lodge.

**RED-EYED VIREO** *Vireo olivaceus*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding in a variety of woodland types.

Extreme Dates: 30 Apr 1990 - 12 Oct 1986.

Breeding: Nest with young (also one cowbird young) 18 Jun 1975, Blue Grass VA 640, Highland County Foray. Confirmed breeding on three forays. Recorded in most blocks with several confirmed breeding records, during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (109) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (50) 8 Jun 2003, Paddy Knob, VSO Foray.

Over 1000 birds, split evenly between Bath and Highland Counties, were counted during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BLUE JAY** *Cyanocitta cristata*

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 6 Jun 2003, Millboro, VSO Foray. Recorded during all four VSO forays. Recorded and confirmed in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (11) 8 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (22) 12 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray; winter - (83) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

Over (100) jays were counted in each county during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**AMERICAN CROW *Corvus brachyrhynchos***

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident.

Breeding: Adult feeding fledged young, 14 Jun 1985, VA 678, Highland County Foray; nesting and successful fledging of two young, May and Jun 2003, VA 608, Mustoe, Highland County; young crow begging for food, 7 Jun 2003, Highland County during VSO Foray. Recorded on all three forays. Recorded and confirmed in numerous blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (80) 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (46), 8 Jun and 8 Jun 2003 in Highland County and (32) 15 Jun 2003 in Bath County during VSO Foray; winter - (824) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC; spring - (133) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County.

There were sixty reports totaling more than (600) birds during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**FISH CROW *Corvus ossifragus***

Two Spring Records: (1) 13 Mar 1987, Monterey; (1) 15 Mar 1990, Monterey.

One Summer Record: (1) 13 Jun 2003, near Lake Moomaw dam, 2003 VSO Foray.

**COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident.

Breeding: Recorded on all four forays but no confirmed breeding evidence. Recorded in almost every block in both counties, but no confirmed breeding evidence during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (23) 18 Jun 1975, east of Lantz Mt., Highland County Foray; (12) 13 Jun 1985, Lantz Mt., Highland County Foray; (5) 8 Jun 2003, Sounding Knob, Highland County during VSO Foray; (5) 14 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County, during VSO Foray; winter - (47) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

Approximately (100) birds were reported during the 2003 VSO Foray; about two-thirds in Highland County and one-third in Bath County.

**HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris***

Status: Uncommon permanent resident; breeds primarily in pastures and agricultural fields.

Breeding: Adult with 2 immatures, 20 Jun 1975, near Blue Grass, Highland County Foray; adult at nest with 2 eggs and 2 eggs on the ground, 14 Jun 1985, VA 601, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four forays. Recorded but not confirmed in three blocks in Highland County, not recorded in Bath County, during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (9) 14 Jun 1985, Blue Grass Valley, Highland County Foray; (10) along VA 601 during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (5) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC; (80) 30 Jan 2004, Blue Grass Valley.

Found only in Highland County during the 2003 VSO Foray, scattered reports in upper Blue Grass Valley.

**PURPLE MARTIN** *Progne subis*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: Unknown.

Breeding: Recorded in small numbers on 1975, 1982, and 1985 VSO forays. Recorded only in Williamsville SW5 during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

**TREE SWALLOW** *Tachycineta bicolor*

Status: Common transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 10 Mar 1988 - 9 Oct 1987.

Breeding: Nest with four young, 9 Jun 1982, Hidden Valley, Bath County Foray; several active nests, 11-14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; 7 - 15 Jun 2003, at least six active nests or fledged young reported during VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): spring - (46) 9 Apr 1988, Back Creek Ponds, Bath County; summer - (27) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

Results of the 2003 VSO Foray indicate this species is now common in both counties, having multiplied more than ten fold from colonies of less than a dozen birds in previous forays.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, nesting primarily along rivers and in the banks of ponds and lakes; increasing in recent years.

Extreme Dates: 9 Apr 1987 - no fall date available.

Breeding: Adults entering nest hole, 18 Jun 1975, quarry on VA 640, Highland County Foray; adult feeding young, 11 Jun 1985, Blue Grass Valley, Highland County Foray. Recorded and confirmed in a number of blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (17) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

There were eleven reports totaling (33) birds in Highland County and fifteen reports totaling (76) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Sightings widely scattered within all the river valleys.

**BANK SWALLOW** *Riparia riparia*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 11 May 1988 - no fall date available.

Breeding: Recorded only on 1982 Bath County Foray where (2) were seen on 13 Jun 1982. Recorded as possible breeder, only in Burnsville CW3 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (46) 11 May 1988, US 220, Bath County.

**CLIFF SWALLOW** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Status: Uncommon transient and local summer resident, nesting primarily on the sides of barns and other buildings in relatively open areas.

Extreme Dates: 20 Apr 1987 - 28 Sep 2002.

Breeding: A number of active nests, confirmed breeding during all four VSO forays. Confirmed breeding in two blocks in Highland County and two in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; six nests under construction beneath Jackson River bridge near Bolar, and several active nests on VA 640 north of Hightown during 2003 VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): (22) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (11) 12 Jun 2003 in Bath County during VSO Foray.

There were ten reports totaling (40) adults in Highland County and five reports totaling (21) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Status: Abundant and widespread transient and summer resident, nesting primarily on buildings, bridges, and other artificial structures.

Extreme Dates: 13 Apr 1987 - 26 Sep 1999.

Breeding: Abundant with many breeding records at low elevations during all four forays. Confirmed breeding in most blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Multiple reports of small nesting colonies in barns and under bridges, as well as adults feeding fledglings, during 2003 VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): (91) 10 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (109) 15 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

More than (300) were reported in both counties during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE** *Poecile carolinensis*

Status: Rare permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, except where the Black-capped Chickadee is resident. Present primarily in Bath County lowlands, with a few records from southeastern section of Highland County.

Breeding: Two reports during 1975 Highland County Foray, and seven records, all from lower elevations during 1982 Bath County Foray, but no confirmed breeding records. Five records in Bath County, three confirmed breeding, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (10) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; winter - (6) 20 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there was only one record of (2) birds, apparently a pair, 12 Jun 2003, in southeast section of Bath County; not reported in Highland County.



**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** *Poecile atricapillus*

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, except where the Carolina Chickadee is resident.

Breeding: A number of confirmed breeding records during VSO forays in 1975, 1982, and 1985; fledged young, 13 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County during VSO Foray; confirmed in most blocks in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (23) 17 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (18) 8 Jun 2003, Sounding Knob, Highland County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (341) 20 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

More than (100) birds were reported in each county during the 2003 VSO Foray; present at all elevations, but most reports from forested mountains.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE** *Baeolophus bicolor*

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding records on all four forays; present in majority of blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project; confirmed in Monterey S.E. in Highland and in numerous blocks in Bath County; adult carrying food into birdhouse, 7 Jun 2003, Monterey, during VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): summer - two counts of (18) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (18) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (21) 15 Jun, Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter- (152) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were thirty-nine reports totaling (71) birds in Highland County and thirty-nine reports totaling (182) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** *Sitta canadensis*

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient and winter resident, usually in woodlands having conifers. Rare breeder in conifers at high elevations.

Breeding: Reported on all three Highland County Forays; one record from Bath County, 12 Jun on FR 55, possibly first Bath County summer record, during 2003 VSO Foray, but no confirmed breeding record. Recorded as possible breeder in Thornwood CE4 and McDowell CE 4 during Breeding Bird Atlas Project

Peak Count(s): (16) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were five reports totaling (8) birds in Highland County and one report of (1) bird in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Based on foray data, this species may be increasing in some high elevation locations.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** *Sitta carolinensis*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding during 1982 Bath County and 1985 Highland County forays; adults carrying food, 9, 10 Jun 2003, VA 601; adult feeding young in nest cavity, 14 Jun 2003, Warm Springs Mountain, during VSO Foray; confirmed in a few blocks and recorded in most blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (11) 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (10) 13 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County, VSO Foray; winter - (77) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were ten reports totaling (40) birds in Highland County and twenty-four reports, mostly of (1-3) birds, with four reports of more than (5) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BROWN CREEPER** *Certhia americana*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats; rare breeder at high elevations.

Breeding: Summer records from high elevations suggest probable breeding, but no confirmed breeding evidence. Recorded on all four VSO forays.

Peak Count(s): summer - (8) 16 Jun 1985, Allegheny Mt. Road, Highland County Foray; winter - (18) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were four reports totaling (8) birds in Highland County and three reports totaling (5) birds in Bath County; Bath County birds at lower elevations than those in Highland County, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**CAROLINA WREN** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Status: Uncommon and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitats having patches of dense, brushy vegetation.

Breeding: Six fledged young from nest on front porch, Jun 2003, VA 608, Mustoe, Highland County. Recorded on all four VSO forays. Recorded and confirmed in many blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (7) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (14) 8 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (9) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County Foray; winter - (25) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were sixteen reports mostly of (1 - 3) birds in Highland County, from high to middle elevations, and six reports of more than (5) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BEWICK'S WREN** *Thryomanes bewickii*

Status: Formerly a rare transient and summer resident in brushy habitats. This Appalachian subspecies (*T.b. altus*) appears to have been extirpated from most of its former range.

Breeding: Last known breeding record, nested successfully in June-July 1985, with one fledgling and two adults seen for the last time on 22 July, this record noted in Breeding Bird Atlas Project in Monterey CE3 block; recorded also in Monterey SE 6.

One Spring Record: (1) 22 May 1998, 1 mile east of the crest of Lantz Mountain.

**HOUSE WREN** *Troglodytes aedon*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 14 Apr 1987 - 12 Oct 1989.

Breeding: Breeding confirmed in both counties on all VSO forays; recorded on many blocks in both counties, with some confirmed, during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (16) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (8) 7 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

There were ten reports totaling (56) birds in Highland County and ten reports totaling (17) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**WINTER WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter resident in woodlands having dense understory vegetation; rare and local summer resident at high elevations.

Breeding: Pair with two recently fledged young, 10 Jun 2003, Mullenax Run, VSO Foray, apparently the first breeding record for this species in Highland County. Recorded at high elevations during 1975 Highland County Foray. Not recorded during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (4) 18 and 21 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (4) adults, 10 Jun 2003, VSO Foray; winter - (10) 19 Dec 1996, Highland County CBC.

There were two reports totaling (4) adults and (2) young in Highland County and no reports from Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**SEDGE WREN** *Cistothorus platensis*

One Summer Record: (1) 20 Jul 1975, Mill Creek at Hotchkiss, Bath County.

Five Fall Records: (1) 25 Sep 1993, Bath County; (1) 26 Sep 1999, Fort Lewis; (1) 22 Sep 2001, Fort Lewis; (1) 28 Sep 2002, Fort Lewis; (1) 27 Sep 2003, Fort Lewis.

**MARSH WREN** *Cistothorus palustris*

One Spring Record: (1) 3 May 1989, Coursey Springs.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus satrapa***

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats; rare and local summer resident at high elevations.

Breeding: Two nests with young, 18 Jun 1952, Sapling Ridge (3800 ft), Highland County; adult feeding cowbird, 21 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (10) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (17) 9 Jun 2003, VSO Foray; winter - (53) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

This rare breeder appears to be increasing in Highland County; (40) birds counted during the 2003 VSO Foray, all from various conifer stands, primarily in the Locust Springs/Laurel Fork area; there were no reports from Bath County.

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus calendula***

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 22 Sep 1987 - 8 May 1989.

Peak Count(s): spring - (15) 8 May 1989, Headwaters; winter - (4) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER *Poliophtila caerulea***

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 12 Apr 1989 - 13 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Adult on nest, 17 May 1959, Williamsville; recently fledged young, 13 Jun 2003, VA 629, Bath County, VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded and confirmed in a good number of blocks in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (11) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

There were fifteen reports totaling (47) birds in Highland County and twenty-seven reports totaling (141) birds in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD *Sialia sialis***

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, less common in winter, in open and sparsely wooded habitats and farmland.

Breeding: Many confirmed breeding records during all four forays; recorded and confirmed in most blocks in both counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (57) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; fall - (200) 22 Nov 1986, Deerfield Valley; winter - (81) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

There were forty reports, mostly from lower and middle elevations during the 2003 VSO Foray; common and widely distributed in areas with open fields and pastures. High elevations report of (3) 7 Jun 2003 on VA 601 in Highland County, and (3) 14 Jun 2003, along FR 55 in Bath County.

**VEERY** *Catharus fuscescens*

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of woodland types, rare summer resident in moist forests above 2500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 7 May 1990 - 2 Sep 1988.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 10 Jul 1964, Allegheny Mt.; active nest with (3) young, 9 Jun 2003, VA 642 and several reports of adults carrying food or nesting material in Highland County during VSO Foray; adult carrying nesting material, 12 Jun 2003, FR 121 in Bath County during VSO Foray; recorded but not confirmed on previous VSO forays; recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood, Monterey, and McDowell blocks, and possible breeder in Hightown during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (74) 7 Jul 1964, Highland County; (49) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (15) 14 Jun 2003, FR 55 Bath County during VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray most sightings (64) were at the highest elevations in both counties, along Allegheny Mountain, VA 601, and near Paddy Knob; also (4) 8 Jun 2003 at Sounding Knob.

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*

One Fall Record: (2) 5 Oct 1986, Jack Mt. WMA.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** *Catharus ustulatus*

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of woodland types.

Extreme Dates: 4 Sep 1987 - 6 Oct 1987.

One Spring Record: (1) 14 May 1987, Monterey.

**HERMIT THRUSH** *Catharus guttatus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident, usually in dense, shady woodlands; rare summer resident in northwest Highland County.

Breeding: Nest with 4 eggs, 13 - 26 May 1987, Straight Fork; nest with (4) young, 9 Jun 2003, VSO Foray; adult carrying food, 9 Jun 2003, VA 642, Middle Mountain, VSO Foray. Recorded on all three Highland County forays; recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (7) 20 Apr 1989, Lantz Mt. and Allegheny Mt.; summer - (7) 11 Jun 2003, Mullenax Run, VSO Foray; winter - (1) 19 Dec 1996 and 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBCs; (1) 30 Jan 2004, Headwaters.

There were (24) birds counted in Highland County and (5) in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray. While most reports (21) were from the northwest highlands, the data suggest that this species may have increased, with (7) reported in Paddy Knob Area including (3) in Highland and (4) in Bath County; also (1) on 11 Jun 2003, Duncan Knob, possibly the first documented report from this site.

**WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina***

Status: Common to uncommon transient and summer resident in extensive tracts or woodland.

Extreme Dates: 30 Apr 1989 - 4 Oct 1988.

Breeding: Recorded on all four forays. Adult feeding young, 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; recorded in most blocks in both counties and confirmed in many during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (8) 30 Apr 1989, Headwaters, VA 616; summer - (25) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (7) 9 Jun 2003, VA 614, Highland County, VSO Foray; (22) 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were (60) birds reported from Highland County and (120) (considerably less than the 349 reported in 1982) in Bath County.

**AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius***

Status: Abundant and widespread transient and summer resident; rare winter resident. Breeds in a variety of habitat types.

Breeding: Confirmed on all breeding forays in both counties; recorded in almost every block, most of which were confirmed during Breeding Bird Atlas Project. There were five reports of fledged young, four reports of young or eggs in nests, and multiple reports of adults carrying food or nesting material during the 2003 VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): spring - (600+) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (78) 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; winter - (107) 20 Dec 1994; Highland County CBC.

Abundant throughout both counties during the 2003 VSO Foray, at the lower and middle elevations, but less so at the highest points.

**VARIED THRUSH *Ixoreus naevius***

One Record: (1) (photographed) 14 Dec 1977 - 2 Mar 1978, Beverage home, Monterey; observed by 137 birders.

**GRAY CATBIRD** *Dumetella carolinensis*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in brushy vegetation in old fields and woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1990 - 2 Nov 1989.

Four Winter Records: (1) 21 Dec 1988 and (1) 14 Feb 1988, Headwaters, VA 616; (1) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC; (1) 29 Feb 2004, McDowell.

Breeding: Adults carrying food, 8 Jun, and 10 Jun, 2003, VA 616, and 10 Jun 2003, VA 620; adults feeding fledged young along VA 600, 8 Jun, 2003 in Highland County; adults carrying food, 14 Jun 2003, VA 614, Bath County, during VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays, confirmed in Highland County 1985 and 2003, and Bath County in 2003. Recorded in almost every block, most of which were confirmed during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (33) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray.

Reported most days and by most parties during the 2003 VSO Foray, widely distributed from remote high elevations through all surveyed towns and villages, to southernmost Cowpasture River Valley.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** *Mimus polyglottos*

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of habitat types, usually breeding low in dense trees and shrubs.

Breeding: Fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, near Millboro; adult carrying food and nest with young, 13 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded on previous Highland County forays, with no reports northwest of Monterey; found on Bath County forays only in low elevations mostly from the northeastern section. Recorded as possible breeder in Snowy Mountain and Hightown blocks in Highland County; recorded in a number of blocks in Bath County, and confirmed breeding in Bath Alum and Healing Spring during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (6) 9 Jun 1982, Warm Spring Valley, VSO Bath County Foray; winter - (10) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

There were twelve reports, mostly of single birds in Highland County and fifteen reports (46) birds in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

**BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum***

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, in brushy vegetation in old fields, suburban areas, and woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 1988 - 29 Oct 1987.

Breeding: Three reports of birds carrying food and one of a bird feeding fledged young, 9 Jun 2003, VA 637, Highland County, VSO Foray. Recorded on all previous VSO forays; recorded in almost all blocks in both counties and confirmed in most, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (17) 17 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (13) 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley Trail, VSO Foray; (13) 12 Jun 2003, VA 629, Bath County, VSO Foray.

There were (66) birds counted in Highland County and (112) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**EUROPEAN STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris***

Status: Abundant and widespread permanent resident (introduced); nesting in both natural and artificial cavities in a variety of habitat types. May displace other cavity-nesters, especially woodpeckers, from their nests.

Breeding: Confirmed on all four forays; confirmed in almost every block in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (300+) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (205) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; winter - (1614) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Abundant in both counties in open rural habitat, farms and towns during the 2003 VSO Foray. Nesting and breeding activity was observed throughout both counties. The only high elevation report, (11) on 9 Jun, came from VA 637.

**AMERICAN PIPIT *Anthus rubescens***

Three Winter Records: (15) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC; (1) 23 Dec 1989, pond on VA 642, Blue Grass; (2) 18 Dec 2003, Highland County.



**CEDAR WAXWING** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Common transient and uncommon summer and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Five records of nest building, including one at 3900 feet near Sounding Knob, 8 Jun 2003; three counts of birds carrying nest material, three birds on nests, two reports of fledged young, and one of an adult carrying food, during 2003 VSO Foray. Confirmed on all four VSO forays; recorded in many blocks in both counties, confirmed in Thornwood, Snowy Mountain, Monterey and Mustoe in Highland, and in Mountain Grove in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (38) 17 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (30) 8 Jun 2003, VA 600, Highland County, VSO Foray; (30) 13 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, Bath County, VSO Foray; winter - (34) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

Over 500 birds reported from most regions and at all elevations during the 2003 VSO Foray. In comparison with previous forays, this year's counts are substantially higher, and may indicate that this may be an irruptive breeding year for Cedar Waxwings.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** *Vermivora pinus*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in second-growth woodlands and old fields. Hybridizes to some extent with Golden-winged Warbler.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1990 - 28 Sep 2003.

Breeding: Adults carrying food into thicket, 22 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; biologists at Columbia College Biological Station later reported that several young fledged. Not recorded on 1982 or 1985 VSO Forays; not recorded in either county during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Three reports in Bath County, none in Highland County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Several Golden-winged Warblers were heard singing Blue-winged Warbler songs in northwest Highland, where "Brewster's Warblers" have been seen in previous years. One male "Brewster's" backcross, 13 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in early-successional habitats and old fields, usually breeding at somewhat higher elevations than Blue-winged Warbler.

Extreme Dates: 3 May 1987 - 28 Aug 1987.

Breeding: Many confirmed breeding records on three previous VSO forays; recorded but no confirmed breeding during 2003 VSO Foray; recorded in three blocks in Bath County; and in 6 blocks in Highland County, confirmed in Hightown and Doe Hill blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (26) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

There were three reports totaling (6) birds in Highland (one male singing for more than a week, presumably on territory) and (10) Golden-wings plus one Brewster's backcross recorded in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Probably because of change in favorable habitat, this species has declined in Bath County, where (125) were recorded during the 1982 VSO Foray.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** *Vermivora peregrina*

Status: Rare transient in spring, uncommon transient in fall.

Extreme Dates: 10 May 1987 - 14 May 1990; 28 Sep 2001.

Peak Count(s): (6) 27 Sep 1987, Jack Mt. WMA.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** *Vermivora celata*

One Fall Record: (1) 6 October 2003, Beverage yard, Monterey.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** *Vermivora ruficapilla*

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. Possible breeder in mixed woodland at highest elevation.

Extreme Dates: 3 May 1987 - 7 Oct 1987.

One Summer Record: One singing, 18 - 21 Jun 1975, Locust Springs, Highland County Foray.

**NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in deciduous and mixed woodlands, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: 13 Apr 1988 - 2 Oct 1997.

Breeding: Recorded on all four forays, confirmed in Highland; recorded in a number of blocks in both counties, confirmed in Sunrise and Mountain Grove during Breeding Bird Atlas Project,

Peak Count(s): (32) 22 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray.

There were (49) reports in Highland and (122) report in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. Most birds encountered in the lower and middle elevations, with only a few over 3000 feet elevation.

**YELLOW WARBLER** *Dendroica petechia*

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in fairly open, second-growth deciduous woodlands and riparian habitats.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 1989 - 27 Sep 1997.

Breeding: Active nest, 8 Jun 2003, near Forks of Water, and several reports of adults carrying food in both counties during 2003 VSO Foray; adult feeding young cowbird, 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays and in numerous blocks in both counties, confirmed in Sunrise, Mountain Grove, and Healing Spring during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (19) 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (25) 7 Jun 2003, Snowy Mountain Road, VSO Foray.

There were eighty reports from Highland County (80% of which were west of Monterey Mountain and twice the number found in 1985) and eighteen reports of (43) birds in Bath County, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** *Dendroica pensylvanica*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in dense, brushy second-growth woodlands, primarily above 2500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 27 Apr 1989 - 30 Sep 2000.

Breeding: Nearly complete nest in blackberry cane, 7 Jun, with two eggs, 11 Jun 2003, VA 601, several reports of adults carrying food during the 2003 VSO Foray. Confirmed in all four forays; recorded in a number of blocks, confirmed in Hightown block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (46) 10 Jun 1982, Paddy Knob, Bath County Foray; (38) 8 Jun 2003, Paddy Knob, Highland County and (35) 14 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray.

There were totals of (68) in Highland County and (50) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

Note: Paddy Knob has been cited as having the greatest concentration of this species anywhere in Virginia.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** *Dendroica magnolia*

Status: Uncommon transient in woodland habitats and summer resident in highest elevations in northwestern Highland County.

Extreme Dates: 7 May 1987 - 12 Oct 2003.

Breeding: Nest with young, 18 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; adults feeding a fledgling, 27 Jul 2003, Locust Springs. Recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood, and possible breeder in Hightown and Paddy Knob blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (20) 19 Jun 1975, Slabcamp Run, Highland County Foray; (9) 15 Jun 1985, Bearwallow, Highland County Foray; (28) 9 Jun 2003, Mullenax Run and (23) 8 Jun 2003, Sapling Ridge during VSO Foray.

There were at least ten reports with a total of more than (100) birds, mostly from the northwest corner of Highland County during the 2003 VSO Foray, nearly double the number found in the 1985 Highland County Foray, possibly attributable to maturing of conifers, predominantly red spruce, many of which were planted on private land. There was only one Bath County report of (2) birds 14 Jun 2003, near the top of Warm Springs Mountain, during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** *Dendroica tigrina*

Status: Uncommon transient in spring, common transient in fall.

Extreme Dates: 5 May 1988 - 14 Oct 1987.

Peak Count(s): (9) 14 Sep 1987, Lantz Mt.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** *Dendroica caerulescens*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in woodlands with dense understory, vegetation above 1500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 8 May 1987 and 1988 - 15 Oct 1989.

Breeding: Recorded in all four VSO forays, confirmed breeding at high elevations in Highland County; recorded as probable breeder in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (9) 21 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; fall - (7) 12 Sep 1988, top of Jack Mountain, Highland County.

There were seven reports, mostly of one or two singing males in Highland County and six reports from Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. One Hidden Valley report suggests that this species will breed at altitudes as low as 2000 feet in appropriate habitat.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** *Dendroica coronata*

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. Rare summer resident and probable breeder at highest elevations.

Breeding: Present on Sapling Ridge, Locust Springs, Slabcamp Run areas and on Sounding Knob during 2003 VSO Foray, suggests possible breeding, but no confirmed breeding record.

Peak Count(s): summer - (8) 8 Jun 2003, Sapling Ridge, (5) 8 Jun 2003, Sounding Knob, and (3) 8 Jun 2003, Locust Springs area, VSO Foray; fall - (8) 7 Oct 1988, Hidden Valley; winter - (7) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

This species was not recorded in Highland or Bath County during previous VSO forays or in the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, but recent records at highest elevations suggests that this is a breeding species in the high elevation conifer stands in Highland County.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** *Dendroica virens*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in coniferous and mixed woodlands above 2000 feet.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 1990 - 12 Oct 1986 and 2003.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 7 Jun 2003, VA 678, Highland County. Confirmed breeding during VSO forays in both counties; confirmed breeding in Thornwood, probable breeder in Monterey, and possible breeder in Paddy Knob blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; not recorded in Bath County on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (15) 17 Jun 1973, Highland County; (24) 8 Jun 2003, Sapling Ridge, VSO Foray; (28) 12 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were (140) birds recorded in Highland County, of which 80% were in the northwest highlands. In Bath County, about (70) birds were counted (possibly some of the same birds); scattered reports from mid elevations with highest numbers along FR 55 and (3) from Duncan Knob (3819 feet). Based on prior foray findings, this species seems to have increased.

### **BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** *Dendroica fusca*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in coniferous forests above 3000 feet.

Extreme Dates: 29 Apr 1987 - 25 Sep 1999.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays; confirmed breeding in Thornwood and possible breeder in Minnehaha Springs blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (9) 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (25), 10 Jun 2003, Mullenax Run; (20) 8 Jun 2003, Sapling Ridge.

Reported in Highland County only in the 2003 VSO Foray, essentially above 3500 feet and mostly within the conifer and mixed forests of the northwest corner; the lowest elevation report was on VA 600 (3000 feet). Four of the Highland County birds were near the Bath-Highland border on Paddy Knob.

### **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 1989 - 28 Sep 2001.

Breeding: One report, (2) 21 Jun 1975 Mill Gap, Highland County Foray; two reports - (1) 11 Jun 1982 and (1) 12 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw, Bath County Foray; recorded as probable breeder in Healing Springs block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; (1) singing, 5 May 2002, Fort Lewis Lodge.

Peak Count(s): (5) 12 Jun 2003, VA 600, and (4) 15 Jun 2003, VA 628 during VSO Foray.

There were (14) birds reported during the 2003 VSO Foray, all in riverside sycamore stands. Nine were found along a limited stretch of the Cowpasture River spanning both counties. This may be a new and recently colonized area as neither the Breeding Bird Atlas Project nor prior forays located birds in this area.

### **PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in dry coniferous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 16 Mar 2003 - 15 Oct 1989.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in a number of blocks in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; confirmed in Paddy Knob, Minnehaha Springs, Healing Springs, and Nimrod Hall blocks.

Peak Count(s): (15) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (7) 10 Jun 2003, VA 640 and FR 61, VSO Foray.

There were only (3) birds counted in Highland County compared with (37) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray. The species was reported at all elevations from river valleys to ridge tops including several on FR 55. The numbers suggest a marked decline in this species in Highland County, when compared with the 1985 foray, and less of a decrease in Bath County, possibly related to natural succession from pine to hardwood.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** *Dendroica discolor*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in early successional woodlands and old fields.

Extreme Dates: 24 Apr 1989 - 2 Sep 1988.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays but no confirmed breeding record; recorded as possible or probable breeder in three blocks in Highland and five blocks in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (7) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were only (7) total birds recorded in Highland County and (9) birds located in Bath County; both counts notably fewer than the counts on previous forays in both counties. Most reports were from low elevations, there were two reports from Paddy Knob, one from each county. Considered to be uncommon in Highland County during the 1985 Foray, it is even less common now.

**PALM WARBLER** *Dendroica palmarum*

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of habitats, often in fairly open areas with scattered vegetation.

Extreme Dates: No spring dates available; 11 Sep 1987 - 6 Oct 1966.

Peak Count(s): (4) 6 Oct 1966, Blue Grass Valley.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** *Dendroica castanea*

Status: Uncommon transient in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 15 May 1989 - 16 May 1988; 3 Sep 1989 - 5 Oct 1986, and 1987.

Peak Count(s): (9) 15 Sep 1988, Jack Mt.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** *Dendroica striata*

Status: Uncommon transient in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 25 May 2003 - 31 May 1990; 8 Sep 1986 - 19 Oct 1989.

Peak Count(s): (13) 5 Oct 1987, Jack Mt.

**CERULEAN WARBLER** *Dendroica cerulea*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in mature deciduous forests.

Extreme Dates: 1 May 1990 - 24 Jun 1987; no fall date available.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays: recorded as possible breeder in Monterey block, and possible breeder in Sunrise and Williamsville blocks during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (12) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (10) 11 Jun 2003, Duncan Knob, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were only four reports from Highland County, all of single birds, except for (3) 10 Jun 2003, VA 614 and 620, similar to the number recorded on the 1985 foray. There were about (60) Cerulean Warblers identified in Bath County, about twice the number counted in 1982.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** *Mniotilta varia*

Status: Common transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 1989 - 27 Sep 1989.

Breeding: Adults carrying food, 10 Jun 2003, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in a number of blocks in both counties, confirmed in four blocks in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (10) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (39) 12 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray approximately (35) birds were counted in Highland County and over (100) in Bath County, numbers which are comparable to previous forays.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** *Setophaga ruticilla*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in fairly open, often early successional, deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 24 Apr 1987 and 1988 - 27 Sep 2003.

Breeding: Nest with young, 8 Jun, 2003, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in five blocks in Highland County, confirmed in Paddy Knob; recorded in seven blocks in Bath County, confirmed in Minnehaha Springs, Burnsville, and Mountain Grove during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (12) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (25) 8 Jun 2003, Highland County and (31) 14 Jun 2003, VSO Foray.

American Redstarts were common and widespread at all elevations with reports from most parties, with (50) birds counted in Highland County and (150) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** *Protonotaria citrea*

One Fall Record: (1) 20 Sep 2003, Beverage yard, Monterey (following Hurricane "Isabel").



**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorus*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily on slopes and ravines in extensive forests.

Extreme Dates: 1 May 1988 and 1990 - 9 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Adult feeding fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, near Bubbling Springs, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in five blocks in Highland, confirmed in McDowell and recorded in six blocks in Bath, confirmed in Minnehaha Springs, Mountain Grove, and Healing Springs during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (16) 15 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (26) 11 Jun 2003, VA 629, Douthat State Park, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were nine reports (23) birds recorded in Highland County; in Bath County this species was widely distributed over all sectors with approximately (175) birds recorded, more than a 7-fold increase over the (23) birds recorded in 1982.

**OVENBIRD** *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 1989 - 4 Oct 1988.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 7 Jun 2003, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in most blocks in both counties, confirmed in Monterey block in Highland and in Minnehaha Springs, Williamsville, and Healing Springs in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (15) 17 Jun 1973, Highland County; (38) 12 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray (89) birds were counted in Highland County, and twice as many in Bath County, where seven parties reported more than (20) birds.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in wooded swamps and moist woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 5 May 1987 - 17 Sep 1988.

Breeding: Two adults with 3 recently fledged young, 3 Jul 1989, near Locust Springs, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; singing birds at highest elevations during Highland County Forays in 1975 and 1985; pair with male singing, Blowing Springs Campground, Bath County, in June-July 1981 and 12-13 Jul 1982.

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** *Seiurus motacilla*

Status: Common transient and summer resident along running streams in wooded areas.

Extreme Dates: 28 Mar 1989 - 28 Sep 2001.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 7 Jun 2003, Bullpasture Gorge and fledged young being fed, 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley trail, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays, confirmed 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; recorded as possible or probable breeder in five blocks in Highland County and in ten blocks in Bath County, confirmed in Sunrise, Williamsville, and Healing Springs during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (12) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray this species was noted in all sections of both counties, along flowing streams through deciduous forests at all elevations, from below 2000 feet to above 3500 feet. More than two-thirds of the total were identified in Bath County, where sixteen parties reported (1) to (2) birds and three parties found (4) to (7). Populations of this species may have declined slightly since previous forays.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** *Oporornis formosus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in moist woodlands with dense, brushy undergrowth, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: 4 May 1989 - 22 Jun 1975; extreme fall dates unknown.

Breeding: Adult feeding young, 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; confirmed in Doe Hill Atlas block, probable breeder in Monterey SE; recorded as probable breeder in Burnsville and Minnehaha Springs blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (5) 9 Jun 1982, Hidden Valley, Bath County Foray.

There were only (2) birds recorded during the 2003 VSO Foray, both in Bath County, including one on Hidden Valley Trail, and one along VA 614 near Burnsville. This species may be declining locally, though ample deep-forest habitat remains.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** *Oporornis agilis*

Status: Rare fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 4 Sep 1989 - 27 Sep 1989.

**MOURNING WARBLER** *Oporornis philadelphia*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident and breeder in dense, brush understory, primarily in Locust Springs and Paddy Knob areas.

Extreme Dates: 24 May 1987 and 1990 - 29 Sep 2002.

Breeding: Nest, 21 Jun 1988, near Locust Springs; female feeding fledged young, 25 Jun 1964; male carrying nest material, 14 Jun 1985, Locust Springs, Highland County Foray; pair copulating 8 Jun 2003, Paddy Knob, VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded as confirmed breeder in Thornwood and probable breeder in Hightown blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (6) 14 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were at least (10) and possibly as many as (13) individual birds identified by ten parties. All but one were in the Paddy Knob area. There were no reports from Laurel Fork/Locust Springs where they were found in previous forays. The preferred open brushy vegetation has naturally succeeded to less-favored habitat.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** *Geothlypis trichas*

Status: Common transient and summer resident in early-successional habitats, swamps, and dense marshes.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1990 - 10 Oct 1989.

Breeding: Adult feeding young, 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; adult carrying food, 13 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray; reported on all four VSO forays; recorded in several blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project, confirmed in Hightown block.

Peak Count(s): (12) 19 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (16), 8 Jun 2003, VA 600, Highland County and (10) 13 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, Bath County, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were fourteen reports in Highland County and twenty reports in Bath County, mostly of (1-4) birds. Most reports from marshes and streamside areas in lowlands, with up to (7) birds reported by four parties in the Bearwallow and Sapling Ridge area.

**HOODED WARBLER** *Wilsonia citrina*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in brush understory vegetation in moist deciduous woodlands, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: 28 Apr 1987 - 27 Sep 1987 and 1989.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four three VSO forays; recorded as possible or probable breeder in several blocks in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (10) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (34) 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray only (5) birds were recorded, with no reports from the northwest highlands; there were eighteen reports (more than 70 birds) recorded in Bath County; a few records from high elevations but most from Hidden Valley area. The foray data suggest a possible decline in Highland County where it was already considered to be uncommon, but a stable population in Bath County.

**WILSON'S WARBLER** *Wilsonia pusilla*

One Spring Record: 18 May 1988, Monterey.

One Fall Record: 7 Oct 1986, Coursey Springs.

**CANADA WARBLER** *Wilsonia canadensis*

Status: Uncommon transient and local summer resident, breeding primarily in dense, brushy understory vegetation in woodlands above 2500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 1 May 1990 - 4 Sep 1989.

Breeding: Two adults feeding young, 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded as probable breeder in Thornwood and Paddy Knob, possible breeder in Hightown; not recorded in Bath during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (14) 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (8) 9 Jun 2003, Straight Fork, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, this species was located only at elevations above 3500 feet, typically in rhododendron thickets. Approximately (18) birds were recorded in the northwest corner of Highland County with single birds on Sounding Knob and along VA 601. In Bath County, the only Canada Warblers were located atop Warm Springs Mountain, but none from VA 55.

Foray comparison suggests a stable population in Highland County and a possible decline in Bath County.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT *Icteria virens***

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields and early-successional woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 6 May 1987 - 24 Nov 1990.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; adult feeding young in nest, 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded as probable breeder in three blocks in Highland and as possible or probable breeder in seven blocks in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (9) 11 Jun 1982, Hidden Valley, Bath County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, there were only two reports (5) birds recorded in Highland County and fourteen reports (15) birds recorded in Bath County. Foray data suggests a decline in the population of this species in both counties.

**SUMMER TANAGER *Piranga rubra***

Two Summer Records: (1) 12 Jun 1985, VA 629 near intersection with US 220; Highland County Foray; (1) Mountain Grove CE4 Atlas Block, Bath County, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

**SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea***

Status: Common transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 29 Apr 2003 - 27 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Adult feeding young, 13 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; adult feeding fledged young, 9 Jun 1982, Duncan Knob, Bath County Foray. Recorded in most blocks in both counties, confirmed in Monterey block, Highland, and in Minnehaha Springs, Williamsville, and Healing Springs, Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (18) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (21) 8 Jun 2003, Highland County (high elevations), VSO Foray; (28) 14 Jun 2003, FR 55, Bath County (high elevation), VSO Foray; (19) 14 Jun 2003, Bath County (lower elevation), 2003 VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray (144) birds were counted in Highland County and (300) in Bath County, predominantly in the middle and higher elevations.

**EASTERN TOWHEE** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields, open woodlands, and forest edges. Uncommon winter resident.

Breeding: Adult carrying nest material, 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; adult carrying food, 12 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in every block in both counties and confirmed in many during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (56) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (26) 8 Jun 2003, Sounding Knob, Highland County and (39) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County (low and middle elevations), VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, towhees were widely and liberally distributed across both counties, with sixty reports tallying nearly (500) birds.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** *Spizella arborea*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor in brushy and weedy fields, farmlands, and woodland edges.

Extreme Dates: 17 Nov 1989 - 26 Feb 1989.

Peak Count(s): (38) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** *Spizella passerine*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in open mixed woodlands and woodland edges.

Extreme Dates: 28 Mar 1989 - 15 Nov 1987.

Breeding: Confirmed breeding in all four VSO forays. During 2003 VSO Foray there were six reports of adults feeding fledged young, three reports of adults carrying food, and one report of adult on nest, 8 Jun 2003, US 84. Present in every block in both counties, confirmed in most, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (43) 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (32) 7 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; (46) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray; fall - (15) 20 Sep 2003, Fort Lewis Lodge.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, there were thirty reports in each county, most of which returned more than (5) birds, while sixteen listed more than (10) birds.

**FIELD SPARROW** *Spizella pusilla*

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in old fields, brushy habitats, and grasslands. Uncommon winter resident.

Breeding: Recorded and confirmed on all four VSO forays: fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley; several reports of birds carrying food and adults feeding fledged young in Highland during 2003 VSO Foray; recorded in almost every block in both counties and confirmed in most during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (23) 17 Jun 1982, Lake Moomaw, Bath County Foray; (25) 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray; winter - (26) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were four reports (9) birds recorded from the highest elevations and (225) birds counted from low and middle elevations.

**VESPER SPARROW** *Pooecetes gramineus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident.

Extreme Dates: 15 Mar 1990 - 16 Nov 1989.

Breeding: 2 adults carrying food, 20 Jun 1975, VA 601, Highland County Foray; nest, 12 Jun 1985, VA 637, Highland County Foray; adult carrying food, 10 Jun 2003, Highland County VSO Foray. Not recorded on 1982 Bath County Foray or the 2003 Bath and Highland County Foray; recorded in three blocks in Highland County, confirmed in Hightown block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (13) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (4) 9 Jun 2003, VA 601, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 Foray, (14) birds were reported only in Highland County, about half the number recorded in the 1985 Highland County Foray.

**LARK SPARROW** *Chondestes grammacus*

Two Spring Records: (1) 4 May 2002, VA 640 west of Blue Grass; (1) 15 Mar, 2004, Monterey.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in pastures and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 15 Mar 1990 - 13 Nov 1989.

Breeding: Young in nest, 15 Jun 1973, Highland County; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in five blocks in Highland County, confirmed in Snowy Mt., Mustoe NE2, and Monterey blocks in Highland, and confirmed in Williamsville SW5 and Nimrod Hall NE2 during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (12) 14 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (4) 8 Jun 2003, VA 601, VSO Foray; fall - (9) 20 Sep 2003, Coursey Springs.

During the 2003 Foray, there were ten reports (16) recorded in Highland and three reports (4) birds recorded in Bath County.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** *Ammodramus savannarum*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in grasslands and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 23 May 1990 - 9 Oct 1987.

Breeding: Recorded on all three forays; recorded as probable breeder in Hightown block and confirmed in Snowy Mt., Highland County; recorded in four blocks in Bath County, confirmed in Williamsville SW5 block, Bath County, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (6) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (10) 12 Jun 2003, VA 678 and 627, Bath County, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 Foray, there were only four reports, all of single birds, in Highland County, compared with (25) in 1975 and (15) in 1985. This suggests a declining trend in Highland County. There were eight reports (18) birds recorded in Bath County.

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** *Ammodramus nelsoni*

One Fall Record: (2) 10 Oct 1989, Hidden Valley, Bath County.

**FOX SPARROW** *Passerella iliaca*

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often associated with dense, brushy vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 25 Oct 1989 - 20 Apr 1989.

Peak Count(s): fall-(11) 16 Nov 1986, Coursey Springs, Bath County; spring- (5) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County.

**SONG SPARROW** *Melospiza melodia*

Status: Abundant permanent resident in a variety of habitats, generally avoiding the interiors of extensive woodlands.

Breeding: Adults feeding young, 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; two reports of adults carrying food and two reports of adults feeding fledged young, Highland County, 2003 VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in nearly every block and confirmed in most during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (76) 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (27) 7 Jun 2003, Blue Grass Valley, VSO Foray; winter - (10) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were twenty-three reports (135) birds in Highland and twenty reports (87) birds in Bath County. Survey results indicate that this species may be less common in Highland County, when compared with counts in previous forays.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** *Melospiza lincolni*

Status: Rare transient, more common in fall, in old fields and brushy edges.

Extreme Dates: 10 May 1987 - 21 May 1988; 23 Sep 1987 - 22 Oct 1989.

Peak Count(s): (16) 10 Oct 1989, Hidden Valley, Bath County.



**SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana***

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter resident in marshes, moist fields, and damp edges.

Extreme Dates: 28 Sep 2002 - 14 May 1990.

Breeding: One record, adults feeding fledged young, 12 Jun 1965, Highland County.

Peak Count(s): (6) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis***

Status: Common transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often associated with dense, brushy vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 27 Sep 1988 - 10 May 1997.

Peak Count(s): spring - (22) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; fall - (10) 12 Oct 2003, Hidden Valley; winter- (25) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW *Zonotrichia leucophrys***

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident, most common in hedgerows, old fields, and forest edges with dense, brushy vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 7 Oct 1996 - 14 May 1990.

Peak Count(s): (8) 20 Oct 1988, Coursey Springs.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO *Junco hyemalis***

Status: Common transient and winter resident in a variety of habitats; common summer resident in brushy woodlands above 2500 feet.

Breeding: Six nests with 1-3 eggs, 21 Jun 1975, Locust Springs, Highland County Foray; adult on nest with 4 eggs 10 Jun 1982, Paddy Knob, Bath County Foray; three reports of nests with eggs or chicks 7 - 10 Jun 2003, and fledged young, 10 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in five blocks in Highland, confirmed in Thornwood and Monterey; recorded and confirmed in Williamsville and Warm Springs blocks, Bath County, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (85+) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (22) 16 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; winter - (518) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

All reports for this species were above 3500 feet during the 2003 VSO Foray. In Highland County there were eight reports totaling (129) birds from northwest highlands; other totals included (11) from VA 601, (26) from Paddy Knob, and (29) from Sounding Knob. In Bath County there were at least (50) birds from FR 55, (6) from Duncan Knob, (4) from Back Creek, and (17) from VA 703.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** *Calcarius lapponicus*

One Winter Record: (1) 25 Jan 2003, Highland County on VA 637 in a feeder lot with about 75 Horned Larks.

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: Rare fall migrant and winter visitor in pastures and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 28 Oct 1982 - 23 Jan 1989.

**NORTHERN CARDINAL** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of habitats, most common in lower elevation areas with brushy vegetation, especially in Bath County.

Breeding: Adult feeding fledgling, 11 Jun 2003, Little Valley, VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays in middle and low elevations; recorded in seven blocks in Highland as possible or probable breeder and in ten blocks in Bath County (confirmed in six), during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (16) 22 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (31) 10 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (11) 7 Jun 2003, Highland County and (18) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray; winter - (26) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were nineteen reports (51) birds in Highland, where (300) were reported on the 1985 foray; there were (132) birds counted in Bath, where there were (291) recorded on the 1982 foray, suggesting a decrease in population of this species in both counties.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** *Pheucticus lucovicianus*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in deciduous forests above 2000 feet.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 2004 - 9 Oct 1987.

Breeding: Occupied nest, 10 Jun 2003, McDowell, during VSO Foray; recorded and confirmed on all four VSO forays; recorded six blocks in Highland, confirmed in Paddy Knob and Monterey SE6; recorded in four blocks in Bath County, confirmed in Warm Springs CW3, Nimrod Hall SE6 blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

One Winter Record: 3 December - 27 Dec 2003, Monterey.

Peak Count(s): (18) 18 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, there were twenty-three reports (49) birds, recorded in Highland County, (31) of which were from Allegheny Mountain; there were twelve reports (26) birds recorded in Bath County. As in previous forays, this species was most common in high elevations, but the present survey suggests a wider distribution, with records from the VA 600, Hidden Valley, and the southern Cowpasture River Valley.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

One Fall Record: (1) late October 1982 (may have been a hybrid), Beverage yard, Monterey.

**BLUE GROSBEAK** *Passerina caerulea*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in old fields and bottomland thickets.

Extreme Dates: 8 Jun 1982 - 22 Jun 1975.

Breeding: Adults copulating, 11 Jun 2003, VA 604, Little Valley, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded on Highland County 1975 Foray and Bath County 1982 VSO Foray and only in Bath County during 2003 VSO Foray. Recorded as possible breeder in Hightown and Mustoe blocks in Highland and as probable breeder in Nimrod Hall NE2 blocks in Bath County during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (8) 11 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, there were only three reports (6) birds during the entire foray period. According to previous foray records, this species was always uncommon in Bath County and rare in Highland County.

**INDIGO BUNTING** *Passerina cyanea*

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident in old fields, woodland edges, and brushy thickets.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 1988 - 10 Oct 1989.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays, confirmed in Highland County; recorded in every Atlas block and confirmed in most during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (69) Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (77) 12 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray; (30) 7 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; (62) 14 Jun 2003, Jackson River trail, Bath County, VSO Foray; (83) 14 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray.

This species was very common and widely distributed in both counties during the 2003 VSO Foray. Most reports were of more than one bird with thirty-three of the sixty-eight reports listing more than (10) birds.

**DICKCISSEL** *Spiza americana*

One Spring Record: (1) spring 1983, Monterey.

Three Summer Records: (1) 3 Jun 1988, VA 220, below Carlover; (1) in Williamsville SW5 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project; pair, 7 Jun 2003, VA 638, Highland County, VSO Foray.

One Fall Record: (1) 3 Nov 1985, Monterey.

One Winter Record: (1) 28 Feb 1982, Monterey.

Note: Finding a pair in appropriate habitat suggests probable breeding of this midwestern species known for its erratic wanderings that regularly extend into Virginia.

**BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus***

Status: Uncommon to locally common transient and open farmland and pastures; local summer resident in fields in the Blue Grass area in Highland County.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1990 - 26 Aug 1989.

Breeding: Nest with 2 eggs, 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray (first breeding record for Virginia); recorded on all three Highland County VSO Forays, increasing in recent years. Recorded as probable breeder in Hightown block, and possible breeder in Monterey NW1 and Mustoe NE2 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (12) 9 Jun 2002, Highland County; (34) 7 Jun 2003, Hightown area, VSO Foray; (11) 7 - 8 Jun 2003, Meadowdale community, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, the total count was (60) birds, mostly males, approximately double the number counted in 1985; it was not located in Bath County.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius phoeniceus***

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, breeding in moist fields, marshes, and bottomland thickets. Uncommon to locally common winter resident.

Breeding: Adults carrying food, adult carrying nesting material, and adult carrying fecal sacks were reported during the 2003 VSO Foray; recorded and confirmed in both counties during all four VSO forays; recorded and confirmed in most blocks in both counties during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (281) 21 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (300) 9 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; (34) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray; (31) 11 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley, Bath County, VSO Foray; winter - (28) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray indicate that this species remains an abundant breeding species in Highland County and common in Bath County. Reports were well distributed throughout all of the lower and middle elevations.

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella magna***

Status: Common to uncommon permanent resident, less common in winter, in open grassy fields.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in many blocks in both counties, confirmed in Snowy Mt., Hightown, Monterey and Doe Hill blocks in Highland, and Bath Alum, Green Valley, and Nimrod Hall blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (75) 19 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (70) 9 Jun 2003, Blue Grass Valley, Highland County, VSO Foray; winter - (47) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray indicate that this species is still very common in fields, pastures, and meadows, especially in the Blue Grass Valley where (160) birds were reported, which represented approximately 40% of the total two-county count.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

One Fall Record: (4) 29 Sep 1990, Fort Lewis Lodge, Bath County.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** *Euphagus carolinus*

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter resident.

Extreme Dates: 25 Oct 1997 - 15 Apr 1990.

Peak Count(s): fall - (5) 2 Nov 1989, Headwaters, VA 616; winter - (1) 20 Dec 1994 and 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Two Spring Records: (1) 16 Mar 1980, Highland County; (1) 26 Mar 1988, Blue Grass, VA 640.

**COMMON GRACKLE** *Quiscalus quiscula*

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, uncommon winter resident, in a variety of habitat types.

Breeding: Several reports of adults carrying food and fledged young, 2003 VSO Foray; recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in almost all blocks in both counties and confirmed in most during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): spring - (250+) 21 Mar 2004, Bath County; summer - (205) 13 Jun 1985 Highland County Foray; (50) 8 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; (41) 13 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray indicate that this species remains stable and common in the lower and middle elevations; total counts of almost (300) in Highland County and about (150) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** *Molothrus ater*

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, uncommon winter resident. Forages in open habitats, lays eggs in nests of a variety of hosts.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded as possible or probable breeder in most blocks in both counties, confirmed in Nimrod Hall NE2 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (46) 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray; (26) 7 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; (15) 14 Jun 2003, Bath County, VSO Foray; winter - (73) 20 Dec 1994, Highland County CBC.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray indicate that this species remains widely distributed across both counties with (1-5) birds being the norm. High elevation reports were limited to Highland County.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE** *Icterus spurius*

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in open woodlands, along fencelines in farmlands, and suburban areas.

Extreme Dates: 9 May 1987 - 21 Jun 1975, fall date unknown.

Breeding: Adult carrying food, 14 Jun 2003, Fort Lewis, Bath County, VSO Foray; nest with young, 14 Jun 2003, VA 628, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in only one block in Highland, as possible breeder in Mustoe block; recorded as possible or probable breeder in six blocks in Bath, confirmed in Mustoe, Monterey SE, and Nimrod Hall NE2 blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (7) 9 Jun 1982, Bath County Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were ten reports (20) birds in Highland and fifteen reports (40) birds in Bath County. All reports were from various river valleys.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** *Icterus galbula*

Status: Common transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often nesting in sycamore trees near water.

Extreme Dates: 30 Apr 1987 and 1989 - 11 Sep 1987.

Breeding: Three active nests, 7 Jun 2003, Highland County, VSO Foray; active nest, 15 Jun 2003, US 220, Bath County, VSO Foray; fledged young, 14 Jun 2003, Hidden Valley trail, Bath County, VSO Foray. Recorded and confirmed in all four VSO forays; recorded in most blocks in both counties, confirmed in Paddy Knob block, Highland County, and Mountain Grove and Warm Springs blocks in Bath, during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (18) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray. There were (59) adults reported in Highland County and (47) in Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray.

Results for the 2003 VSO Foray were similar to those reported in the last two forays.

**PINE GROSBEAK** *Pinicola enucleator*

One Winter Record: (1) 18 Feb 1978, Highland County.

**PURPLE FINCH** *Carpodacus purpureus*

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. Rare summer resident at high elevations, especially the Locust Springs area, Highland County.

Breeding: Occupied nest, 20 Jun 1975, Highland County Foray, the first breeding record for this species in Virginia; recorded on all three Highland County forays, not recorded in Bath County; recorded as possible breeder in Thornwood CE4 and SE6 blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (10) 19 Jun 1965, Highland County.

There were only (9) birds counted during the 2003 VSO Foray, all but (1) from the Locust Springs/Laurel Fork area; there was one report of a single bird on VA 601. In 1985 only (5) Purple Finches were found in the same distribution, indicating a small stable population in these high elevation conifer forests.

**HOUSE FINCH** *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of habitats, often in close association with human habitations. Introduced from western North America in the 1940s.

Breeding: Adults feeding young, 7 Jun 2003, Forks of Water, Highland County, VSO Foray; recorded in Highland County 1985 and Bath County 1982 VSO Forays, not recorded in 1975; recorded and confirmed in only two blocks in Highland, Snowy Mt. and Hightown; recorded as possible or probably breeder in three blocks in Bath County during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): (8) 11 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (27) 7 Jun 2003, Monterey, VSO Foray.

During the 2003 VSO Foray there were (51) House Finches reported in Highland County, double the number found in 1985; there were three reports (8) birds in Bath County, the same number as reported in 1982.

**RED CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: Rare permanent resident in coniferous and mixed woodlands at higher elevations.

Breeding: Most likely breeding at highest elevations, but no confirmed nest record. Recorded on previous three VSO forays, but not during the 2003 VSO Foray; recorded as probable breeder in McDowell CE4 block, and as possible breeder in Nimrod Hall NE2 block during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (50+) 9 Jun 2002, VA 601, Highland County; winter - (13) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** *Loxia leucoptera*

One Winter Record: (3) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

**COMMON REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

Status: Rare and irregular winter visitor, usually seen visiting feeders during irruption years.

Extreme Dates: 6 Feb 1982 - 10 Mar 1978.

Peak Count(s): (50) 27 Feb 1994, Monterey.

**HOARY REDPOLL** *Carduelis hornemanni*

One Record: (1) (photographed) 26 Feb - 1 Apr 1994, Monterey; first accepted record of this species for the state, seen by more than 100 observers.

**PINE SISKIN** *Carduelis pinus*

Status: Uncommon to rare transient and winter visitor. May be locally common during irruption years, when often seen at feeders.

Extreme Dates: 12 Oct 2003 - 3 May 1988.

One summer record: (1) 11 Jun 2003, Cobbler Mt. Trail, Hidden Valley, VSO Foray.

Peak Count(s): (“thousands”) 6 Feb 1982, near McDowell, after light snowfall, thousands were killed, making solid mass on the road when hit by cars; (700) 18 Feb 1982, US 220 and US 250; (300) 10 Feb 1988, Blue Grass, VA 637 and 640.

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis tristis*

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Recorded on all four VSO forays; recorded in every block in both counties, confirmed in Snowy Mt. and Hightown blocks during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (191) 12 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (50) 10 Jun 2003, Highland County Foray; fall - (30) 20 Sep 2003, Fort Lewis Lodge; winter - (509) 18 Dec 1997, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 VSO Foray, as in previous forays, this species remains common at high elevations and abundant elsewhere. Nearly all groups reported this species daily and counts of (10) and (30) were common, more so in Highland.

**EVENING GROSBEAK** *Coccothraustes vespertina*

Status: Uncommon to rare and irregular transient and winter resident, often seen visiting feeders during irruption years.

Extreme Dates: 31 Oct 1987 - 31 May 1996.

One Summer Record: (3) one adult and two immatures, 5 Jul 1988, Monterey.

Peak Count(s): spring - (100) 1 Mar - 12 Apr 1986, Millboro; winter - (656) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.



**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Status: Abundant permanent resident (introduced) in close proximity to human habitation.

Breeding: Several active nests were reported during the 2003 Foray. Recorded and confirmed on all VSO forays; recorded in most blocks in both counties, confirmed in four blocks in Highland and six in Bath during Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Peak Count(s): summer - (32) 11 Jun 1985, Highland County Foray; (51) 7 Jun 2003, Monterey, VSO Foray; winter - (178) 22 Dec 1995, Highland County CBC.

During the 2003 Foray there were fifteen reports from Highland and eight from Bath, mostly from towns, villages, and farmsteads in lower and middle elevations, with only one report from above 3700 feet at Mullenax Run, Highland County. Based on historical data, this species appears to remain stable.



## INDEX

American		
Woodcock.....	21	
Bittern		
American .....	14	
Least .....	14	
Blackbird		
Brewer's.....	65	
Red-winged.....	64	
Rusty.....	65	
Yellow-headed.....	65	
Bluebird		
Eastern .....	40	
Bobolink.....	64	
Bobwhite		
Northern.....	13	
Bufflehead .....	11	
Bunting		
Indigo.....	63	
Snow .....	62	
Canvasback.....	10	
Cardinal		
Northern.....	62	
Catbird		
Gray .....	43	
Chat		
Yellow-breasted.....	57	
Chickadee		
Black-capped .....	37	
Carolina .....	36	
Chuck-will's-widow.....	25	
Coot		
American .....	19	
Cormorant		
Double-crested.....	14	
Cowbird		
Brown-headed.....	65	
Creeper		
Brown .....	38	
Crossbill		
Red.....	67	
White-winged .....	67	
Crow		
American .....	34	
Fish .....	34	
Cuckoo		
Black-billed .....	23	
Yellow-billed .....	23	
Dickcissel .....	63	
Dove		
Mourning .....	23	
Dowitcher		
Short-billed.....	21	
Duck		
American Black.....	8	
Long-tailed .....	11	
Ring-necked .....	10	
Ruddy .....	12	
Wood.....	8	
Eagle		
Bald .....	16	
Golden.....	18	
Egret		
Cattle .....	15	
Great.....	15	
Snowy.....	15	
Falcon		
Peregrine .....	19	
Finch		
House .....	67	
Purple .....	67	
Flicker		
Northern .....	28	
Flycatcher		
Acadian .....	29	
Alder.....	29	
Fork-tailed .....	31	
Great Crested.....	31	
Least .....	30	
Olive-sided .....	29	
Willow.....	30	
Yellow-bellied.....	29	
Gadwall .....	8	
Gnatcatcher		
Blue-gray.....	40	
Goldeneye		
Common.....	11	
Goldfinch		
American .....	68	
Goose		
Canada.....	7	
Snow.....	7	
Goshawk		
Northern .....	17	
Grackle		
Common.....	65	
Grebe		
Horned.....	14	
Pied-billed .....	13	
Red-necked.....	14	

Grosbeak		Merganser	
Black-headed .....	63	Common .....	11
Blue .....	63	Hooded .....	11
Evening .....	68	Red-breasted .....	12
Pine .....	66	Merlin .....	19
Rose-breasted .....	62	Mockingbird	
Grouse		Northern .....	43
Ruffed .....	12	Moorhen	
Gull		Common .....	19
Bonaparte's .....	21	Nighthawk	
Herring .....	22	Common .....	25
Ring-billed .....	22	Nuthatch	
Harrier		Red-breasted .....	37
Northern .....	16	White-breasted .....	38
Hawk		Oriole	
Broad-winged .....	18	Baltimore .....	66
Red-shouldered .....	17	Orchard .....	66
Red-tailed .....	18	Osprey .....	16
Rough-legged .....	18	Ovenbird .....	53
Sharp-shinned .....	17	Owl	
Heron		Barn .....	23
Black-crowned Night .....	15	Barred .....	24
Great Blue .....	14	Eastern Screech .....	24
Green .....	15	Great Horned .....	24
Yellow-crowned Night .....	15	Long-eared .....	24
Hummingbird		Northern Saw-whet .....	24
Ruby-throated .....	26	Short-eared .....	24
Jay		Parula	
Blue .....	33	Northern .....	47
Junco		Pewee	
Dark-eyed .....	61	Eastern Wood .....	29
Kestrel		Phoebe	
American .....	18	Eastern .....	30
Killdeer .....	19	Pigeon	
Kingbird		Rock .....	22
Eastern .....	31	Pintail	
Kingfisher		Northern .....	9
Belted .....	26	Pipit	
Kinglet		American .....	44
Golden-crowned .....	40	Plover	
Ruby-crowned .....	40	Semipalmated .....	19
Kite		Rail	
Mississippi .....	16	King .....	19
Lark		Raven	
Horned .....	34	Common .....	34
Longspur		Redhead .....	10
Lapland .....	62	Redpoll	
Loon		Common .....	68
Common .....	13	Hoary .....	68
Red-throated .....	13	Redstart	
Mallard .....	9	American .....	52
Martin		Robin	
Purple .....	35	American .....	42
Meadowlark			
Eastern .....	64		

Sandpiper	
Least .....	21
Pectoral .....	21
Semipalmated .....	20
Solitary .....	20
Spotted .....	20
Sapsucker	
Yellow-bellied .....	27
Scaup	
Greater .....	10
Lesser .....	10
Scoter	
Surf .....	10
White-winged .....	10
Shoveler	
Northern .....	9
Shrike	
Loggerhead .....	31
Siskin	
Pine .....	68
Snipe	
Wilson's .....	21
Sora .....	19
Sparrow	
American Tree .....	58
Chipping .....	58
Field .....	59
Fox .....	60
Grasshopper .....	60
House .....	69
Lark .....	59
Lincoln's .....	60
Nelson's Sharp-tailed .....	60
Savannah .....	59
Song .....	60
Swamp .....	61
Vesper .....	59
White-crowned .....	61
White-throated .....	61
Starling	
European .....	44
Swallow	
Bank .....	35
Barn .....	36
Cliff .....	36
Northern Rough-winged .....	35
Tree .....	35
Swan	
Mute .....	7
Tundra .....	7
Swift	
Chimney .....	25
Tanager	
Scarlet .....	57
Summer .....	57

Teal	
Blue-winged .....	9
Green-winged .....	9
Tern	
Black .....	22
Caspian .....	22
Common .....	22
Thrasher	
Brown .....	44
Thrush	
Gray-cheeked .....	41
Hermit .....	41
Swainson's .....	41
Varied .....	42
Wood .....	42
Titmouse	
Tufted .....	37
Towhee	
Eastern .....	58
Turkey	
Wild .....	12
Turnstone	
Ruddy .....	20
Veery .....	41
Vireo	
Blue-headed .....	32
Philadelphia .....	33
Red-eyed .....	33
Warbling .....	33
White-eyed .....	32
Yellow-throated .....	32
Vulture	
Black .....	15
Turkey .....	16
Warbler	
Bay-breasted .....	51
Black-and-white .....	52
Blackburnian .....	50
Blackpoll .....	51
Black-throated Blue .....	49
Black-throated Green .....	49
Blue-winged .....	45
Canada .....	56
Cape May .....	48
Cerulean .....	52
Chestnut-sided .....	48
Connecticut .....	54
Golden-winged .....	46
Hooded .....	56
Kentucky .....	54
Magnolia .....	48
Mourning .....	55
Nashville .....	46
Orange-crowned .....	46
Palm .....	51
Pine .....	50

Prairie.....	51	Woodpecker	
Prothonotary .....	52	Downy .....	27
Tennessee.....	46	Hairy.....	28
Wilson's .....	56	Pileated .....	28
Worm-eating .....	53	Red-bellied .....	27
Yellow .....	47	Red-headed.....	26
Yellow-rumped .....	49	Wren	
Yellow-throated .....	50	Bewick's .....	39
Waterthrush		Carolina .....	38
Louisiana.....	54	House.....	39
Northern.....	53	Marsh.....	39
Waxwing		Sedge .....	39
Cedar.....	45	Winter.....	39
Whip-poor-will .....	25	Yellowlegs	
Wigeon		Greater.....	20
American.....	8	Lesser .....	20
		Yellowthroat	
		Common .....	55

## **Bath-Highland Bird Club Observation Report**

**Bath** ☐      **Highland** ☐      **Observation Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bird Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Count** \_\_\_\_\_      **Evidence of Breeding** ☐

**Males** \_\_\_\_\_      **Females** \_\_\_\_\_      **Unknown** \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Stage**      \_\_\_\_\_ Adults      \_\_\_\_\_ Eggs  
**Information**      \_\_\_\_\_ Nestling      \_\_\_\_\_ Fledging  
                         \_\_\_\_\_ Immature      \_\_\_\_\_ Pair  
                         \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown

**Location** (*refer to county road map and elevation if possible*):

**Observation Setting** (*check more than one option if appropriate*)

<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Trees/Grass
<input type="checkbox"/> Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/> Streamside	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake/Pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside	<input type="checkbox"/> Feeder
<input type="checkbox"/> Valley area	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain top	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountainside

**Type of Sighting**      ☐ Incidental      ☐ Foray  
                                 ☐ Field Trip      ☐ Survey

**Observers** (*list contact info on back if not previously provided*):

**Notes** (*identification uncertainties, bird behavior, breeding evidence, approximate times of observation, weather, etc.—continue on back*):